

Jordan Times

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Arafat urges Nathan to stop hunger strike

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israeli peace crusader Abie Nathan, in the 20th day

of a bunger strike to protest a law against talking to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders, said Friday he got a message from Yasser Arafat beseeching him to start eating. "But I won't give up." Mr. Nathan said. "Even if the president of Israel or President Bush asked me to stop I wouldn't. Its my life and I have my reasons." Mr. Nathan's hunger strike is aimed at rescinding a 1986 law which forbids contacts with groups that

Israel considers "terrorist." Mr. Nathan, owner of the offshore "Voice of

Peace" radio station, was jailed for four months in 1989 for meeting Mr. Arafat a year earlier. He faces trial for a second meeting. Contacted by telephone, Mr. Nathan said in a weak voice that he has lost 12 kilos during his water-only fast. He said a telefax signed by Mr. Arafat was sent to the Tel Aviv hotel where he has spent the hunger strike. "I am following in great appreciation your activities opposing the Israeli laws and measures that go against the genuine interests of our people, and peace and justice between the state of Palestine and Israel," Mr. Arafat wrote.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 4, 1411

Masri to visit **Turkey Tuesday**

ANKARA (R) - Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will arrive in Turkey on Tuesday on a four-day official visit, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday. Mr. Masri will discuss post-Gulf war de-velopments in the region and bilateral ties with Turkish counterpart Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, a ministry statement said.

Libyans flown to U.S. from Kenya

NAIROB1 (R) — The United States said Friday it had flown 350 Libyans out of Kenya to new American homes but declined to comment on a report that they were the remnant of a force trained to overthrow Muammar Oadhafi. In a statement released by the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, the State Department said the men were former prisoners of war in Libya's southern neighbour Chad who feared persecution at bome. It did not say when they were flown out. Friday's New York Times said the Libyans were part of a group of 600 who received guerrilla training from "American intelligence officials" during the 1980-88 Reagan presidency for an operation against Libya's leader that did not take place. The Libyans fled Chad last November, when Libya's ally Idriss Deby seized power there, and went to Zaire. Some decided to return to Libya but about 350 travelled to Kenya.

The Hague wants to expel Palestinian

THE HAGUE (AP) - The Dutch government is expelling a Palestinian labour activist considered a threat to pational security, a justice ministry spokes-woman said Friday. Ibrahim Al Baz's permanent residency status was revoked six weeks ago after the ministry was alerted by the domestic security service to what spokeswoman Jannie Pols termed dangerous" activities engaged in by Mr. Baz. She refused to elaborate on those activities, or how they endangered Dutch national security. Mr. Baz has filed an appeal with the justice ministry, which is due to be ruled on in two weeks, Ms Pols said. The 40-yearold Baz, who heads the General Union of Palestinian Workers, has been bying in the Netherlands for 11 years and holds an Iraqi passport, the mass circulation daily The Telegraaf reported Thursday.

30 southern Sudanese killed in bombing

NAIROBI (AP) — Bombs dropped on a rebel-held southern Sodanese town killed more than 30 civilians, mostly women and children, in the single deadliest bombing since southern rebels took up arms eight years ago, a U.N. source said Priday. Eighteen bombs fell in and around the town of Nasir on Sudan's eastern border with Ethiopia Tuesday morning killing 27 people out-right and wounding more than 20. Three more people died of their miuries on Nasir's small airstrip as they and 17 others waited to be evacuated by U.N. aircraft to a hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the northern Kenyan town of Lokicbokkio about 500 kilometres south, said a senior U.N. official. An unknown number of people died overnight, said

Slad Barre 'would rather die fighting' than flee Somalia

ROME (R) - Mohammad Siad Barre, in hiding since rebels ousted him from power three months ago, has insisted he is still Somalia's legal president and pledged to die fighting rather than flee the country. "This is my country, my home. I will not go away, I will continue to fight to the death, even though I would like Somalis to solve their problems through dialogue," he said in an interview published Friday. He fled the capital Mogadishn in January after a month of street battles with rebels of the United Somali Congress, who have named an interim president.

Bush sees 'real cause for optimism' on peace

Israel says differences narrowed

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush said Friday he still sees "real cause for optimism" on prospects for a Middle East peace conference and the U.S. effort to promote one will continue unabated de-

spite apparent lack of progress. "My assessment... is that there is real cause for optimism and we will continue to work this process," Mr. Bush said in a brief conversation with reporters as he left for a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat.

"We are not about to stop... progress has been made," said Mr. Bush, who refused to go into any detail on wby he felt so optimistic about prospects of getting Israel, Arab states and Palestinians around a conference

The president commented after being briefed by Secretary of State James Baker, who returned on Thursday night from his fourth Middle East shuttle-diplomacy mission since the Gulf war ended

Mr. Baker's trips to Israel, Syria, Jordan and in the region have apparently failed to resolve key differences blocking U.S. hopes of organising a peace conference covering all major Middle

East issues. "We're going to keep on working it from here, and if there's a reason for him to go back (to the Middle East)

states... my impression is that indeed a reduction has begun in those gaps," Israeli Defence Minister Moshe

he will," Mr. Bush said as Mr. Baker Arens, who participated in talks with stood by his side. Mr. Bush said "there's plenty of

He offered few details, except to point to a declaration by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that they would send observers to a peace

Mr. Baker noted that all sides had agreed that the basis for any peace conference would be two United Nations resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab

Said Mr. Bush: "Progress has been made and so when you're working a problem this complicated you just keep plugging away."

Mr. Bush said quiet diplomacy is

required to gain agreement on the peace conference, and added, "I think the credibility of the United States is higher in the Middle East He praised Mr. Baker's efforts

lavishly - joking at one point that "it might kill him" if he had to undertake another trip to the Middle East. Mr. Baker returned home overnight without agreement from any of

the key Middle East leaders for Mr. Baker's plan of a conference to be jointly sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. Israeli leaders said Mr. Baker had

narrowed the gap between their posi-tion and that of the Arah states on Middle East peace talks but they refused to detail the progress made.
"Mr. Baker is trying to reduce the gaps between as and the Arab states... my impression is that indeed

Mr. Baker, told Israel Television. Mr. Baker, who left tsract for Washington Thursday, said he was not disappointed at the end of his shuttle. But he confirmed that two issues — a possible conference role for the United Nations and the con-

ference structure --- were unresolved Mr. Arens said he believed some progress had been made in the most recent talks with Mr. Baker but he refused to elaborate.

mir said Mr. Baker had secured agreement from the Jewish state on a number of issues, but he too refused to give details.

There is no failure here. We agreed on a lot of things that are not yet for publication, things that prepare the ground to allow Baker to make close and positive contacts with the partners that are taken ioto

coount in the peace campaign."
Asked if he included Syria in the list of "partners" the ground bad been prepared for, Mr. Shamir said: Everyone is on the list."

"I don't think that anyone should have expected any breakthroughs. The peace process in the Middle East is a very slow one, because most of the Arab states are not interested in making peace with Israel," Mr. Arens said on Isrsel Radio. We should be very satisfied when

this slow proces goes forward. And I think we are achieving slow advancement," he said.

Mr. Arens said Israel was willing to go ahead even if Syria refuses to join the negotiating table.

(Continued on page 2)

Barzani reports accord on key points with government

BAGHDAD (Agencies) - A top Kurdish leader said Friday he has agreed to key points with the Iraqi government on a plan for Kurdish autonomy and democra-

cy throughout Iraq. Massond Barzani, whose Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) is the largest Kurdish guerrilla faction, also suggested Kurds have dropped their demand for international guarantees for the accord.

Mr. Barzani has been discussing Kurdisb autonomy and democratic reform with the government for two weeks.

He gave no details of the agreement, saying they would be out-

lined at a Saturday news confer-Mr. Barzani urged refugees

who fled the fighting to return to northern Iraq. Tens of thousands of Kurds fled to the mountains to escape the rebellion in the wake of the

Allied officials said Friday they intend to build several more

camps near Zakho in northern Iraq to house up to 100,000 Kurdish refugees on their way home. They plan up to five new temporary tent villages, each bousing 20,000 refugees.

Coalition forces ran out of tents earlier this week but have found 35,000 tents at various locations around the globe, the Operation Provide Comfort task tents will be sent to Zakho.

Mr. Barzani told an impromotu news conference at a Baghdad botel that he was optimistic an agreement with the government would be signed soon.

"We didn't reach full agreement, but we passed a very important step," Mr. Barzani said. We agreed with the government about the main points of the democracy." A key demand of the Kurdish

rebels has been wider participation of the Kurds in legislative and executive decisions. They have also called for democracy throughout Iraq.

They want full autonomy in three northern provinces where most of the 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds live, and a share of the revenue from lucrative oil fields located in the Kurdish region.

Baghdad's negotiating team, headed by President Saddam Hussein's deputy, Izzat Ibrahim, remained tight-lipped about the talks, aimed at ending a dispute force said in a statement. The which bas dogged Iraq for de-

The rebel leader, dressed in khaki uniform, said he planned a news conference on Saturday to give details of progress so far. He was ready to stay in Baghdad until full agreement was reached.

Trust between the two sides. who less than two months were battling for control of mountainous north Iraq, had been greater than expected but more time was needed to solve all problems, Mr. Barzani said. He was guarded by Iraqi

plainclothes securitymen, patroll-(Continued on page 2)

Palestinian stabs three Israelis; Shamir sorry he was caught alive

(Agencies) - A Palestinian stabbed three Israelis in a dash along attacker when he got stabbed. a downtown Jerusalem street Friday before bystanders captured him, police said. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was sorry the Palestinian was caught alive.

"It is very grave, this vile deed which bas occurred on the main streets of Jerusalem again. To my regret, the perpetrator was captured alive and this pains me greatly," Mr. Shamir told Israel Radio.

"We have to fight against this and take all steps for these deeds to end," he added. "All those responsible for security have to

be ready and on alert." Police said the attacker was a 21-year-old resident of the Arab

Jerusalem. "The motive is nationalist. He was shouting 'Allahu Akbar'," a police officer said.

Police said the victims were all Jewish and included a woman. They said all were slightly in-

inred. One of them, a bearded Jewish seminary student, was treated at nearby Bikur Holim Hospital for a cut in his hand and a stab wound to the shoulder. The stu-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM dent, 31-year-old Moshe Cohen. said he was trying to stop the

Police spokesman Avi Zelba said a crowd gathered and beat the attacker. The crowd also attacked two plainclothes detectives who tried to intervene, breaking the band of one detec-

A religious Jew who tried to shoot the Palestinian but hit him on the head with his pistol after it jammed was himself arrested. vitnesses said. The attack was the latest in a

cycle of Arab-Jewish violence that began after police shot dead at least 20 Palestinians during clashes on Arab Jerusalem, in October last year.

On April 30, an Arab stabbed to death a French woman tourist in the West Bank town of Beth-

"We have to fight this and use all means so these acts will be stopped. It is not a problem which has a solution. It is a matter of awareness and caution," Mr. Shamir said.

The attacks began in a supermarket crowded with shoppers. The female victim, 27, was stabbed near a bus stop.

"I saw him stab the girl in the back as she stood at the bus stop. He shouted 'Allahu Akbar' as usual and be continued running wildly," one witness told army

The Palestinian, pursued by passers-by and two cars, ran into a side street where he was captured and beaten. A large pool of blood was seen at the site.

"I kicked him with my leg. His knife fell away and I hit him in the head with this metal handle. 1 bit him about 10 times. People almost killed me, they were shouting: 'Kill him kill him'." said Naftali Papero, a thin, bearded Israeli.

"We tore him apart." added Edmond Suissa, 25. Suissa said the assailant carried "a twobladed knife with a handle in the middle "

Witnesses said a Jewish settler from Mazle Adumin near Jerusalem tried to shoot the Arab twice with a pistol. After the weapon jammed, the settler hit the Palestinian with the pistol

Police rushed reinforcements to the area, dozens of Israelis clustered in small groups, shouting "hang the Arabs."

King, Assad meet today on peace efforts vis-a-vis current peace

AMMAN (R) - Ris Majesty King Hussein is expected to fly lo Damascus Saturday to discuss efforts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Jordanian political sources said Friday.

"As main parties in the peace process, the two countries have to exchange views to know where each is standing efforts," one of the sources told Reuters. "The two also need each

other's support in any future

Hussein on Wednesday to tell

move in the peace process." The King's trip to Syria follows U.S. Secretary of State James Raker's fourth tour of the region and after U.S. President George Bush called King

him that Washington was committed to an Arab-Israeli settlement based on U.N. principles demanding an exchange of land

Mr. Bush expressed "Washington's keenness and determination to help the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to reach a peaceful political settlement on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's commitment to the cause of peace and to solving the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian problems peacefully and justly on the principles of international legitimacy, it said.

Farmers welcome P.M.'s steps, Syria, Lebanon enter By Mariam M. Shahin working at the moment. Those farmers who spoke to the Jordan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

treaty BEIRUT (AP) - President Elias Hrawi returned home from Syria Friday after winning the support of President Hafez Al Assad for a

treaty regulating "distinctive relations" between this war-ravaged country and its powerful neigh-But Israel strongly rejected the "treaty of brotherhood, cooperation and coordination," accusing

After a lengthy session that stretched into the early morning hours, on official announcement in Damascus said Mr. Assad "welcomed the new and appropriate framework for the relations between the two

Syria of "swallowing cup" Leba-

A presidential statement in Beingt said that on his return, Mr. Hrawi contacted Prime Minister Omar Karami and conveyed to him that be and Mr. Assad "were in total agreement on the details of the treaty."

Mr. Hrawi travelled to Damascus Thursday after his cabinet approved the draft treaty.

The document bas to be submitted to the Syrian and Lebanese parliaments for ratification before it becomes binding. The dates of the parliament sessions in Beirut and Damascus have not been set. But neither

presidents' decision. Once ratified, it will be the first treaty to regulate relations between the two country's since Lebanon's independence from

house is expected to challenge the

France in 1943. Syria maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. It is backing Mr. Hrawi's drive to end 16 years of civil war and restore government authority to

Israel, which occupies a border strip in South Lebanon, rejected the accord between Lebanon and

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday Syria was "turning Lebanon into another protectorate." "When the world's attention

was focused on the Gulf crisis, and when Syria joined the coalition against (Iraq), behind the scenes Syria was busy swallowing up Lebanon," Mr Arens said. This is against all acceptable norms," he added on Israel

Israel carved out the so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985 after withdrawing the bulk of the army that bad invaded its northern neighbour three vears earlier. It claims the strip serves as a

buffer against guerrilla raids into northern Israel. Israeli troops and their surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army, staged manoeuvres in the

border strip. Security sources in South Lebanon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about 500 Israeli soldiers and 35 tanks took part in the exercise which began Thursday on the foothills of Mount Hermon, close to the Syrian bor-

Mr. Karami, the Lebanese Italian television interviewed prime minister, instructed Lebanon's U.N. Ambassador Farid Mekkawi to relay to the Security European-Arah tour. Council the government's "worries stemming from Israeli activi-

ties in South Lebanon " Mr. Karami, in a statement (Continued on page 2)

but say situation calls for more tively and efficiently than it is

AMMAN - Jordan Valley farmers yesterday welcomed Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statements in which he announced plans to combat pollution of irrigation water, but said that the proposed measures may fall short of what is required to dispel fears about a repetition of this years damage to

"The government will soon start drilling artesian wells along the Zarqa River that flows towards King Talal Dam in order to dilute the polluted water in the dam and feed it fresh underground water, thus making it suitable for irrigation of crops." The prime minister was quoted as saying Thursday. At a meeting with representa-

tives of the farming community from the Central Jordan Valley region the prime minister said:
"The government bas already embarked on plans and studies designed to reduce the negative effects of the polluted water on the crops, and is monitoring the sources of pollution attentively."

In his discussions with farmers Mr. Badran reviewed plans that concerned ministries are expected to adopt in order to ensure that the severe crop damage that resulted from polluted irrigation water this year does not occur again.

Farmers interviewed by the Jordan Times Friday expressed satisfaction that the prime minister has publicly recognised the severity of the situation in the Jordan Valley and had begun action to resolve the issues. "In view of the fact that high ranking officials in Mr. Bad-ran's government had earlier denied the existence of the water pollution problem, we consider the prime minister's admission as progress." one of the farmers said.

Many of them agreed, however. that the new measures proposed by the government may not be suffi-

Waste-water treatment

While the prime minister said that existing waste-water treatment plants will have to work more efficiently, farmers question whether the Khirber Al Samra sewage water treatment plant can be made to function more effecTimes echoed certain expert opinions by suggesting that the wastewater treatment plant at 'Ain Ghazal may have to be reopened, or that some other measures have to be taken, in order to ensure adequate irrigation water is supplied to the valley.

The farmers also said that the drilling of artesian wells may be

very costly and that the water derived from them may turn out to be salty and therefore useless for the purpose of feeding loto the polluted King Talal Dam,
At least one farmer, who asked pot to be identified, also criticised

a promise by the prime minister that the "real" causes of the damage to the crops will be investigated and to compensate the concerned parties based on the findings. "This will take too long, and by the time they research the whole issue the Jordan Valley may be in ruins," contended the far-"Local experts, including those

at the University of Jordan, are familiar with the issue and well equiped to deal with the problem. But unfortunately they have not been consulted or listened to sufficiently on the real causes of the disaster. The pollution of the dam may have been due partly to the factories dumping waste in the Zarqa River (which feeds King Talal Dam) but the real problem is the inadequacy of the Khirbet Al Samra treatment plant," another

farmer said. Mr. Badran had earlier formed a committee chaired by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah to investigate the causes of the damage of the crops following conflictthe disaster. Mr. Wishah announced Wednesday that the commince bad not completed its studies and investigations, but would report its findings to the

spite the prime minister's positive attitude towards their plight they had received no guarantees that next year their crops would be spared the fate of this year's. Discussions between Mr. Bad-

The farmers also said that de-

ran, the farmers and Sultan Adwan, chairman of the Lower

House of Parliament's Agricultural Committee, centred oo issues ranging from fighting insects to the soaring prices of farming equipment, compensation to farmers for their losses, marketing Jordan's agricultural produce and the res-cheduling of farmers' loans.

The prime minister's visit and meeting with the farmers followed a protest march organised by farmers in the central Jordan Valley last week in which the farmer condemned both government ministers and parliamentarians for ignoring their plight. The concerned ministers and parliamentarians had failed to attend a scheduled meeting to discuss farming

problems in the Kingdom. The farmers, who contend they sustained ID 60 million in damages to their crops, threatened to sue the government and to take other measures so that they would not be exposed to similar losses in the

Spraying plan

Mr. Badran told the meeting drawo up for the collective spraying of crops in the valley by elicopter with the purpose of eli-

minating posts, especially the "white fly." He said that the Ministry of Agriculture was now involved in preparing a comprehensive study of the farmers' debts and, in the light of a report to the government, steps would to taken to deal with the question of rescheduling far-

'The government is now entist-ing the help of international experts to determine the real causes of the damages inflicted on the farmlands," the prime minister pointed out. He said once the real cause behind the crop damage had been determined, steps would be taken with regard to compensation to the farmers. Compensation, he said, should be shouldered by those responsible for the losses.

Mr. Badran told the farmers that the Gulf crisis had halted Jordan's agricultural marketing program-mes, especially in the Gulf region, but all efforts were exerted towards marketing the products which form the backbone of the national economy.

Mubarak: Gulf security proposal is not dead

CAIRO (AP) - President Hosni Egypt's troops from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia does not mean that an eight-country Arab plan for Gulf security bas collapsed. He said Egypt will send troops to the Gulf again if a detailed

agreement to be negotiated calls for them. Mr. Mubarak's remarks in an Italian television interview appeared intended to dispel interpretations that the Egyptian troop withdrawal marked the end

of the so-called Damascus declaration. The Damascus declaration, issued on March 6 in the Syrian capital, linked Egypt and Syria with the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

It constituted a set of general principles providing for a joint security force, with Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf region acting as a nucleus. In return, the oil-rich states would give the two military donors massive financial

Mr. Mubarak Wednesday, the eve of his visit to Rome to start a

"Many people interpreted the decision to withdraw Egyptian forces from Kuwait as a reversal of the Damascus agreement," Mr. Mubarak said. "This is not

Mubarak says withdrawing the task of participating in the liberation of Kuwait, and they accomplished their mission suc-

> Mr. Mubarak announced on May 8 that he was calling bome 36,000 soldiers posted within a 33-nation U.S.-led military coalition that rid Kuwait of Iraqi occupation. Until then, the government bad said repeatedly that the Gulf war troops would be at the heart of the security force. It rotated some of them on that basis until Mr. Mubarak ordered

> the pullout. A week after Mr. Mubarak's announcement, presidential confidant Ibrahim Nafie, a newspaper editor, wrote in Al Ahram that the pullout was for two reasons:

> First, most of the force in Kuwait was left without a specific assignment after the Gulf war ended on Feb. 28, implying that the force no longer was welcome in Kuwait.

> The other reason was that some GCC members had second thoughts about the Damascus agreement, Mr. Nafie said, wanting instead a larger security force including non-Arab troops. Egypt won't act as an Arab cover in peacetime for non-Arab military muscle that could lead to "an explosion," he said.

Kuwait says allies will be

out in 1 month KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's defence minister said in an interview published Friday U.S.-led coalition forces would complete their pull out from the emirate within one month. But Sheikh Ali Salem Sabah Al

of the Gulf's six Arab states and Egypt and Syria would soon deploy in Kuwait. Sheikh Ali told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anba, published in Egypt, that "some 90 per cent of

Salem Al Sabah said a joint force

the American forces have withdrawn and the remaining numbers are pulling ont." "After approximately one month these forces will complete

their withdrawal as well as all of the coalition forces from Kuwait." The minister said a force grouping troops from the sixnation Gulf Cooperation Council

as some "friendly" countries would deploy in Kuwait Sheikh Ali said a comprebensive agreement would then be reached regarding the security arrangements in the Gulf region. He said Iran would play a role in

(GCC), Egypt and Syria as well

these arrangements. Western countries bave said they would not keep ground troops in Kuwait but would maintain sea and air forces in the Gulf.

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S. Arabia beefs up security for Haj

are beefing up security for next month's annual pilgrimage to Islam's boliest shrines, fearing possible trouble from supporters Officials declined to say how

many troops and police will be mobilised for the month-long pilgrimage, the Haj, to the shrines at Mecca and Medina. But a. Western diplomat,

speaking on condition of anonymity, noted: "I think this will be the largest number of security forces brought out for the Haj in

The Saudis bave a 45,000-man army and a 56,000-strong National Guard, including 26,000 tribal levies, which is controlled by the fnterior Ministry.

As early as last month, a large number of regular police wer transferred from Riyadb to Mecca, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammad. Bearded bedown police from rural areas took their

The interior minister, Prince Nayif, warned last month that if there is trouble. "we will not sbow leniency in any case and we will not allow any individual to tamper-with the security of the

The Haj bas been plagued by violence and political problems for years and the Saudis have a lot riding on ensuring this pilgrimage will be trouble-free.

KUWAfT (R) - Kuwait's

policymakers, peering at the in-

Terno in their oilfields, concede

that setting targets and mapping

out production strategies must

ing his bouse burning what colour

he wants to paint bis walls," said

Nader Sultan, president of

Kuwait Petroleum International.

pumping oil next month for the

first time since the U.S.-led allies

ended Iraq's occupation in Febru-

ary. In the meantime, its pre-

invasion production capacity of

more than two million barrels per

centres (where the oil is sepa-

rated from gas before being piped

to the tank farms) we're boping

to guarantee 50,000 barrels (per

day)," Mr. Sultan said in an

Refined products, which accounted for nearly 700,000 bpd

of pre-invasion exports, will have

to wait far longer to reappear.

The complex refineries were re-

duced to a shambles in the Gulf

There are 26 gathering stations

throughout Kuwait. All of them

are believed to be damaged,

some destroyed, but cannibalis-

ing parts could provide a short-term solution, U.S. oil industry

Some of the stations bave still

"We've been to the outer re-

gions, but the American army has

told us not to go even two inches off the tarmac," Mr. Sultan said.

southwest to Wafra on the Saudi

border, row upon row of Iraqi

mines are clearly visible, exposed

by a northerly wind. A southerly

wind will smother them with sand

One Kuwain oil executive said

production would rise to 120,000

The fear is mines. Driving

to be checked by experts.

sonrces said.

interview with Renters.

"From one of the gathering

day is a memory.

The emirate hopes to start

"It is like asking a man watch-

Kuwait oil strategists

wait for smoke to clear

King Fahd, much of whose legitmacy in Islamic eyes rests on his title of guardian of the holy places, came under criticism in some parts of the Muslim World for inviting more than a halfmillion Western "infidel" troops into Sandi Arabia to protect it

Baghdad said Americans troops were defibing Mecca and Medina, the Prophet's burial place. But the Saudis largely countered that through a vigorous campaign of their own.

Nearly all the 700,000 Western Arab and Islamic troops who deployed in the U.S. coalition to liberate Knwait, have gone

President Suharto of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation with an estimated 180 million people, has said he will personally make the Haj this

That was a signal of confidence in the Saudis and their security arrangements and a gesture to-

wards Muslim unity.
The Haj, which all Muslims are expected to make at least once in their lives, is one of the world's largest religious rites.

An average of 1.6 million prilgrims from 60 countries converge on Mecca and Medina every year. Last year there were two million. Iraqi Information Minister Hammid Yusef Hammadi said May 12 that Iraqi pilgrims will

bpd in July, but "beyond that we

ple of hundred thousand."

targets," Mr. Sultan said:

take part in this year's Haj.

But he gave no details and it's not clear bow many Iragis will

come to Saudi Arabia this year. The Saudis have never banned any Muslims from the pilgrimage, although after trouble with franian pilgrims in 1987, they imposed a quota system limiting national groups to 1,000 for every one million head of population.

Every year, the Saudis spend billions of dollars on facilities to accomodate, feed, transport and care for the flood of pilgrims. This year they have spent addi-

tional funds on improving safety arrangements following a disaster last year in which 1,426 pilgrims died in a stampede in a Mecca

Most were Indonesians, Turks and Malaysians. President Suharto's action in making the Haj himself was seen as endorsing the Saudi regime and its efforts to

Violence and natural disaster have marred the Haj since 1979 wben Sunni fundamentalists stormed the Grand Mosque. Scores of people were killed in a two-week seige.

Five years ago, Iranian Revolu-tionary Guards were arrested trying to smuggle explosives into Mecca. In 1987, More than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with saudi police when a banned political demonstration turned into a riot.

ploded in Mecca during the pilgrimage, killing one man and wounded others. Sixteen Kuwaiti Shiite Muslims, fingered as fra-

nian agents, were beheaded. Despite the political feuds between Rivadh and other Arab groups, this year has seen a rap-prochement between Saudi Arahia and Iran.

They restored relations last month, three years after Riyadh severed links, citing terrorism and subversion.

Since then, the Iranians have boycotted the pilgrimage, complaining that the quota system cut the number of franian pilgrims from 150,000 to 45,000.

The Saudis have allowed Iran to send 110,000 pilgrims this year — a reward, some say, for Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war. But the return of the Iranians is

more alert this year. Wbile Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani is working to improve relations with his country's neighbours, he is opposed by radical fundamentalists who

espouse overthrowing the Saudi

royal family. These radicals were considered behind much of the trouble in the past and the main Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khaiq, or people's holy warriors, claims sabotage operations are

enhance Saudi role

cannot say, maybe another cou-RIYADH (R) — Riyadh's im-"No dates are being set.. no Ask anyone and technically they don't know when the fires will be extinguished," he said. But he added that according to

comments made by firefighters, The United States and the next year might see the cap put on the last flaming well. Replacing destroyed equipment will also take time.

The two main pipeline junctions, blasted apart by U.S. planes to stop oil spilling into the Gulf, will take more than a year to replace, one Kuwaiti oil executive said. "Everything went through them," he added.

Using by-pass pipes over the broken junctions will take crude

oil to waiting tankers. But loading will be rudimentary and the volume significantly reduced until a replacement for the Sea Island terminal, also destroyed by U.S. planes, is ready.

Building a new terminal from scratch could take up to two

The flows from the wells more than 500 in the Greater Buroan field - were regulated to maintain a careful pressure balance between the subterranean layers of oil, gas and water.

Oil gushing at a rate of five million bpd drains the natural pressure of the reservoirs and threatens the lifespan of recoverable reserves estimated at 97 billion barrels.

Tell-tale white smoke billowing from a blown well means water has pushed to the top. One oil firefighter in the Ahmadi field, just south of Kuwait City, said he spotted only one well out of 100

in the area showing symptoms. "No real work has been done to assess the damage to the reservoirs," Mr. Sultan said.

Soviet ties should

proving ties with Moscow, after 50 years of mutual mistrust, should enhance Saudi Arabia's role in the politics of the post-Gulf war world, diplomats in the kingdom say.

West European powers are welcoming the new Saudi-Soviet friendship as a force for regional stability, they say.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said last week that Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's visit to Riyadh, the first by a leading Soviet politician since formal ties resumed last year, was a new departure in relations between the two countries.

Rivadh would prefer to see fewer Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel but the Saudis and Soviets generally agree on the means to peace between Arabs and Israelis, the diplomats say.

Mr. Bessmertnykh swung through the kingdom on his quest for a regional peace settlement, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, but Saudi officials said after he left Riyadh Tuesday the Soviet minister's visit was as much to strengthen their new

friendship. "Saudi-Soviet talks concentrated on bilateral relations, which are based on a solid foundation, and these relations will expand," the Saudi Press Agency on Wednesday qnoted Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal as

"The Sandis are often a voice for moderation, and of particular importance through their economie power, but they have not often played an active role," said

a European diplomat. "Prince Saud realises that in Order to have a more active diplomacy, Saudi Arabia needed to complete the circle with both superpowers, even if one is not quite the power it was," be said.

Sandi Arabia, the biggest and richest states on the Arabian Peninsula, was one of the last Gulf Arab countries to take up diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Since the 1980s, as a champion of Islam, Saudi rulers barboured a deep resentment of Moscow's imposition of communism on tens of millions of Soviet Muslims.

At first Moscow saw the kingdom as a playground for British imperial ambitions along its southern borders, connected to the old Anglo-Russian rivalry over the roads to British India.

After World War II, it in-

creasingly saw it as a bastion of U.S. influence and the centre of Western control over the Gulf's

buge oil reserves. But the tbaw in East-West ties over the past five years and President Mikhail Gorbachev's internal reforms persuaded the Saudis it was time to mend fences, the diplomats said.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia's ally and neighbour, last August also showed Riyadb it needed to adopt a more assertive regional and world diplomatic stance for the sake of its

own security.

During Mr. Besmertnykb's visit, Prince Saud Thanked him for Soviet support for U.N. resolntions against Iraq, which gave the U.S.-led military alliance the anthority to fight Iraq.

But the real breakthrough in Sandi-Soviet relations was Moscow's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1988.

Saudi Arabia backed the Afghan guerrillas against the Soviet forces which supported the communist government in Kabul.

"Afghanistan put Saudi-Soviet ties on ice for 10 years. If not for Afghanistan, some Saudi leaders may have liked to see better relations earlier," said one diplo-

Both sides have concrete things to offer. Saudi Arabia bas the investment resources which the crippled Soviet economy needs. In Moscow last november, Prince Saud began discussions on a \$4

billion credit for Moscow. Moscow has also pleased Riyadh by recent concessions to religious freedom for Muslims. It has allowed in Saudi preachers and last year imported one million Sandi-printed copies of the

Visible Saudi patronage of Soviet Muslims is politically important because it helps Riyadh balance the influence of neighbouring Iran, which has fought a hitter campaign against Saudi Arabia for the title of protector of

'Super bomb' Foreign Office told Briton given used against Iraqis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior fraqi military officers were the target of a powerful new bomb dropped by the U.S. air force on Iraqi command bnnkers in the final days of the Gulf war, an air force general has confirmed. The existence of the non-

nuclear bomb and its use against Iraqi bunkers near Baghdad was disclosed earlier this month by the magazine Aviation Week and Space Technology, which said the air force denied it was targeting Traqi President Saddam Hussein.

General Ronald Yates, commander of air force systems command, told reporters inquiring about the use of the GBU-28 one reason why the Saudis will be bomh that it was dropped on a single target, which he described as a command and control complex containing "senior staff" of the Iraqi military. He did not describe the extent of damage. Gen. Yates, whose command

was in charge of building the bomb, did not say whether the air force knew exactly which Iraqi military officials were in the

Last September during the J.S. military buildup in the Gulf. air force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Dngan was fired by Defence Secretary Dick Chency for telling reporters that the air force would target the Iraqi leadership, including President Saddam, in

Gen. Yates, speaking at a breakfast meeting with defence reporters declined to elaborate further on the use of the GBU-28 bomb. He said "a classified number" of the bombs were built in the final days of the war, but he would not be more specific. The general would not say whether more of the bombs will be

To demonstrate how furiously the air force worked to get the bomb built, Gen. Yates said that when they were loaded for the trip to the Gulf in late February they were still warm from the molten explosive placed inside during assembly.

Aviation Week reported that the 2,130-kilogramme bombs were built in 17 days to meet a request from U.S. commanders for a weapon capable of penetrating Iraq's most beavily reinforced bunkers. The magazine said an undetermined number of Iraqi military officials were killed in

Gen. Yates said the bomb was tested only once before an undisclosed number were flown to the Gulf and used just days before the Feb. 29 ceasefire.

Late singer's daughter dies

CAIRO (AP) — Aicha Abdul Wahab, deeply distressed over the death of ber father, Egypt's top composer-singer, died of a heart attack after watching one of his movies on television, family members said Friday. She was 46. Doctors said Miss. Abdul Wahab died of a heart attack, just

as her 90-year-old father Moham-mad Abdul Wahah did two weeks She was the eldest of Abdul

Wahab's five children by his first wife, who died a few years ago. He named Aicha after bis mother, and family members said she was his favourite. They said Miss Abdnl Wahab

suffered deep depression after her father's death. On the eve of her fatal attack on Tuesday, they said, she wept as she watched on television one of the seven movies in which Abdul Wahab starred. Abdul Wahab, universally ack-

nowledged as the Arab World's most popular composer-singer this century, died on May 3 and was given a military funeral.

life spying sentence for in Iraq

LONDON (R) — The British government said on Friday it would exert maximum pre on Baghdad to secure the early release of a British engineer sentenced by an Iraqi court to life imprisonment for spying.
Foreign Office Minister Doug-

las Hogg said the detention of the Briton, Douglas Brand, was in breach of United Nations resolutions and tht Britain would fight to keep economic sanctions in force against Iraq as long as be British officials said diplomatic sources in Baghdad had told Lon-

don of Mr. Brand's trial and sentence but the Foreign Office was seeking urgent confirmation from the Iraqi authorities. "We deplore this act. We think

it's absolutely shocking," said Mr. Hogg. "We will put all the pressure that we can on Iraq to get the early release of Douglas Brand," he told British Broadcasting Cor-

poration television. Britain's U.N. Ambassador Sir David Hannay said Thursday Mr. Brand was one of the hostages Iraq used as buman shields to deter allied attacks before the Gulf war and that U.N. Secretary Council resolutions demanded he

Mr. Brand, 51, an engineer

working in Iraq, was arrested while trying to fice through the south of the country last September, when Bagbdad beld Japanese hostage following its izure of Kuwait.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the life sentence in Mr. Brand's case appeared to mean 20 years, although spying can carry the death penalty in Iraq. The death penalty was carried

ont in March 1990 on Mr. Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist working for a British newspaper. He was hanged after being convicted of spying for Israel.

Mr. Hogg said British pressure
on Baghdad could also include a

U.N. sanctions against Iraq or to consider lifting a freeze on Iraqi "There are various things that we can do with regard to Iraqi assets here in London and also in

refusal to support moves to ease

regard to sanctions," he told BBC radio. "We shall be taking all possible steps. Mr. Hogg called Mr. Brand's detention a "a gross breach of various Security Council resolutions which require the release of all third country nationals held in

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Hogg met Mr. Brand'a son Andrew at

the Foreign Office. After the meeting, Andrew Brand strongly denied his father was a spy "He was just an honest businessman earning a bying on a

purely commercial contract, not involved with the military in Iraq," he said in a television Mr. Andrew Brand said his father, a former royal marine and member of Britain's citte military. Special Boat Squadron, was

working for Iraq's Ministry of Irrigation and Dams, clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway of debris from the Iran-Iraq war.

The Foreign Office contacted Iraq's sole diplomat in London, Charge d'Affairs Zuhair Ibrahim on Thursday night after Soviet diplomats in Baghdad said Mr.

Brand bad been put on trial, The Soviet diplomats said Mr. Brand was taken to court on Sunday from Abu Ghraib prison west of the Iraqi capital, for what was apparently the first session of

his trial for espionage.

Iraq broke diplomatic relations with Britain during the Gulf war and the Soviet Union has been representing British interests in Baghdad.

On Friday morning, Mr. Hogg called in Jordan's ambassador, Albert Brtros, to ask him to seek details from Iraq.

Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

broadcast by the state-run Radio

Lebanon, said the war games in

the security zone "appear to be a

threat against the treaty (with

Friday the text of the six-point

The Lebanese media published

Barzani reports accord

(Continued from page 1)

ing his botel with Kalashnikov automatic rifles hidden behind newspapers.

Issues resolved included an end to strife in the north, the KDP Mr. Barzani said another key

issue, control of the northern city of Kirkuk and its vast oil resources, was now "not a prob-Another Kurdisb leader, Jalal

Talabani, told Renters on Tuesday the Kurds would accept Baghdad's control of the oil in return for Kurdish administration of Kirkuk and its province. Mr. Talabani said instead of a

slice of the oil revenues, the Kurds wanted a share of the state budget equal to their population - about 20 per cent to Iraq's 18 million people. Mr. Barzani said he was confi-

dent Iraq was ready to sign an agreement with the United Nations to provide some kind of U.N. security presence in the Kurdish regioo.

"I don't think it's impossible to

advance the peace process without Syria," he said. "There are other

countries bordering Israel, Jordan of

course... we are prepared and in-

terested in making peace with all of

them together ... and even with just

The English-language Jerusalem Post daily, meanwhile, quoted a poli-

tical source as describing a series of secret agreements reached in Mr.

Baker's talks with the Israeli leaders

Mr. Shamir disclosed Thursday

that Israel and the United States

"agree on a number of issues that cannot be published yet" to belp Mr.

According to the Post, the agreements included one saying the European Community would bave a "clearly defined and limited" role in

Although Mr. Shamir refused any

U.N. role at the conference, final

documents would be submitted to U.N. beadquarters in New York, the

newspaper said. Israel army radio reported Thursday that the United Nations will put a "final stamp of

approvat" on any Arab-Israeli agree-

ments.

Israel also agreed to use only the

term "conference," an apparent com-

promise between the Arabs' call for

an "international" meeting and

Israel's proposed "regional" confer-

fn another development, the Arab-language daily Al Nahar reported

Bush sees 'real cause' for hope

(Continued from page 1) "important signs that Israel and

territories."

Mr. Barzani has been heading a delegation of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front rebel alliance at negotiations with the Iraqi government since May 7.

The talks, intended to forge a

deal on the future of Kurdistan, democracy and human rights, follow agreement in principle between the two sides to revive a 1970 autonomy accord.

"We have agreed on norma lisation," Mr. Barzani said. "This is good. We agree with the government about the main points, these are very, very important things. He called on Kurdish refugees

Iraq, though not necessarily to their homes for the time being. "It is better for the Kurds to come back at least inside Iraq," U.S. and other Western troops

in Turkey and Iran to return to

bave created a "safe haven" security zone for Kurds in northern Iraq. Iraq bas condemned the allied

Palestinians in the occupied territor

ies have agreed to what Baker said is

s three-year self-rule before negotiat-

ing the final status of the occupied

Egyptian President Hosni Mabarak said Friday he believed s Middle East

peace conference could be agreed

trip.
"I don't think Baker's mission is a

failure. The problem of the Middle East is so complicated that it will not be solved in one or two trips," Mr.

Mubarak told a news conference after

"But f think there are good steps forward now and f think f hope that

we can conclude something before

He said concessions would have to be made but avoided singling out

"I hope all the parties would re-

spond to the words of peace... with-

out concessions peace will never pre-

Mr. Mubarak said he was willing to

reporters at Luxembourg's Senningen

"ff there is good preparation some

thing will come out of the meeting. If nothing comes out, this will be a setback that will create a lot of

talks with Luxembourg leaders.

the end of this year."

Mr. Mubarak is on a European

before the end of this year.

troop presence.

kilometre strip, or one fourth of the country.

The peace plan calls for deployment throughout the rest of the country as of July 1. That would put the 40,000-

Lebanese militia backers.

In Nabatiyeb, Lebanon, Shiite Muslim fundamentalists said they detonated two roadside bombs in the Israeli-occupied zone Friday. Security sources said four people were killed and four others

the prestigious Al Nahar daily, was killed by the second bomb near the southern village of Beit

Al Nahar's managing editor. Francois AqI, confirmed the death of Mr. Khreish, who had worked for the paper more than 15 years.

He said that according to in-

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A slight rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at different attitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba,

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

..... 14 / 29 Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-man 22, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 30 per

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The first two clauses deal with cooperation and coordination in various fields, especially economy, education, trade and foreign policy. The next three points deal with

security arrangements, including a plan for redeployment of the Syrian troops. The final clause calls for the establishment of a body beaded by the presidents of the two countries to oversee implementation of the accord. The treaty was the latest step in government drive to accelerate

a peace process under a 1989 Afab League-brokered accord to end the civil war. Lebanon has already disarmed rival militias in and around Beirut and deployed government troops to control a 2,500-square-

strong Lebanese army in direct confrontation with the Israelis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and their

The PLO and the Iranians have said they would disarm only after Israel quits the "security zone."

Attacks in south

wounded.

Nasrat Khreish, a reporter for Yaboun in Iarael's self-proclaimed "security zone," according to one security source.

have bilateral talks with the Israeli leader if they would be productive. "A meeting between me and Mr. Shamir at such a sensitive time should be worked out beforehand," be told

formation available to Al Nahar, Mr. Khreish, 57, was taking pic-tures at the sight of the first blast when the second bomb went off.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Masri praises positive Arab climate in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Thursday the meeting of the Arab League's Council in Cairo yielded positive results and took place in a friendly atmosphere, which ran against all expectations in the light of the current Arab situation and rifts in Arab ranks.

In a telephone interview with Radio Jordan from Cairo, Mr. Masri said he felt in speeches delivered by heads of the Arab delegations in the meeting that the Arab states are trying to create a new atmosphere in the Arab region.

"Everyone (in the meeting) talked about Arab agreement and Arab unity, as well as a review of former concepts, so that we set out with Arab action to new grounds," the foreign minister

Bnt, Mr. Masri said, the Arabs should wait to see if this trend of change will be transformed into deeds that will have their effects on the Arah atmosphere and inter-Arab relations

He said the discussion of several important issues was postponed till the Cairo-based Arab League Council's next session in order to give ome to the newly-elected secretary general of the Arab League, former Egypoan Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, to make contacts and visit Arab states to try to solve inter-Arah differences.

"We should admit that the atmosphere revealed some languor in relations.. thus it was not possible to discuss some hot issues or basic political matters of interest to the Arab World," he

"We thought it was suitable to give the new secretary-general of the Arab League, Dr. Abdul Meguid, the opportunity to settle differences and to prepare the ground for a better atmosphere for the next (Arab League's Council) session.'

The minister said during his stay in Cairo he held several meetings with Arab foreign ministers taking part in the meeting and met with Dr. Abdul Meguid to discuss the Arab League's next moves and the role of the general secretariat.

Iraqis trickle into Jordan after ban on travel lifted

By Rana Sabbagh Reuter

AMMAN - Lucky Iraqi holidaymakers, most enjoying their first taste of foreign travel in almost a decade, are trickling into Jordan to escape the deprivations of war at home.

'I cannot believe I made it," said Ghazwa Shawqi, 38, a secretary who arrived oo one of the air-conditioned Jordanian buses which run a daily 1,000-kilometre desert shuttle between Amman and Baghdad.

"The (Gulf) crisis has made our life hellish," Shawqi said, scrambling for her luggage tucked under dozens of other suitcases. "I need to rest and feel I am still

President Saddam Hussein lifted a ban on foreign travel two days ago as part of effects to normalise life after Iraq's Gulf war defeat by the U.S.-led allies

in February. A travel ban during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war was lifted briefly last year then reimposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on

August 2. Jamila Jalloul, 26, travelling outside Iraq for the first time, said many families she knew would try to leave after May 25, when school examinations are

"All my friends want to come to Jordan because it is the only place where they are allowed in with no complications and do not feel humiliated as Iraqis," she said. "Amman is also one of the few places where you can exchange Iraqi dinars."

Iraqis travelling abroad are allowed to take only 25 dinars (\$130 at official rates, but a mere \$4 at black market rates) ont of the country, effectively limiting foreign travel to those with outside bank account.

Jordan's hotels, whose tourist trade took a direct hit during the Gulf crisis because most Jordanians sympathised with Baghdad, hope the Iraqis will revive their fortunes.

"We expect a boom soon," said Ghaleb Sawalha, executive director at the five-star Regency Palace Hotel.

But Jailoul's businessman husband Jassim said: "At the rate things are going, I doo't believe many people will be able to leave before two weeks."

"Many people either have no passports because they could never travel during the war with Iran or have expired travel documents which need renewal. Others are standing in queues to get exit visas," he added.

"I have a current account in a Jordanian bank but many others do not and are looking for ways to ensure they have enough money to cover their stay abroad. No one can live on the amount he allowed to take out."

The hopes of many less well-off Iragis for an escape from political and economie tnrmoil were dashed by strict guidelines announced by the government last week.

Apart from currency restrictions, Iraqi men cannot leave if they are still eligible for conscription. Government workers need written permission.

Abstract art exhibition a symbol of daily life

By Maha Addasi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Currendy on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation are the werks for two Jordanian artists, Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Dweik.

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Pare A

ing 3

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The exhibitioo, which opened on May 5, is entirely made up of abstract art but each artist uses a different

Mr. Nawash's technique is mostly etching, with acids in different concentrations used to draw on different media. Mr. Nawash uses zinc, which is the usual material for etching, but also copper and stone, which differ in the texture and therefore give various background colours.

Mr. Nawash also has lithographs on display. All bave figures depicting a theme related to daily life morals.

In one etching Mr. Nawash's figures are combined giving the impression that all three figures in the frame have the same body. If one looks closely, though, one notices that if each head is covered at a time the rest of the etching shows either an animal or a human-

According to the artist, this etching symbolises how humans and animals share the burdens in life.

In another lithograph the figure of an innocent child dominates the frame, The child, representing a Palestinian child, shows deep sorrow. To the left of the frame is an older man, with an eye patch, clearly depicting Moshe Dayan, is drawn so that he appears tiny in comparison to the child. The man's expression is that of extreme wickedness.

Yasser Dweik's works are abstract studies of squares. All the pictures are square shaped and many are in turn out into the smaller squares. This way the picture contained several mini-pictures which bave the same general theme but can also be looked at as individual

Mr. Dweik presents a great deal of his art through geometric shapes and colours. In one of his works Mr. Dweik shows the outer squares in a somber colour framing four squares in vivid blue and bright white colours. The inner square are reminescent of a clour-filled

In another work, the four inner squares look like they could be photographs of cells as seen under a microscope.

In yet a third etching, the inner four squares show the same colours that are on the 12 outer squares but they look like photographs out of focus.

The highlight of Mr. Dweik's works is one showing hands reaching out in every direction. All the hands are stretched as far as they can reach as though ready to grab something that is rightfuly

theirs. The exhibition will continue until June 5.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thurs day confers with the Soviet delegation here for talks on cooperation, Middle East issues (Petra Photo)

Parents debate education minister's controversial decision, vow to fight it until rescinded

By Nur Sati Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Following last month's decision by minister of education to ban all fathers from attending their daughters' sports activities, angry parents have formed a committee to tackle the minister's measure.

One-hundred and fifty parents met recently, under the chairmanship of eight elected committee members, to voice anger over the minister who "is trying to take our freedom and rights." Preferring anonymity, parents argued that "the father and mother have a right to discuss the decisioo because we are the ones to determine the education policy that we want for our children."

The committee members 'consider the decision as a unilateral one because the minister did not consult other members of parliament."

All parents from private schools said they would work together to counter the latest decision. A petition will be prepared and signed by all private school pareots. will seot this petitioo to the prime minister or the King," said one of the eight committee members who preferred to have the meeting and names of participants anonymous.

The meeting was characterised by heated debate and tough quesoons: "Is this (new measure) of any use to the education of our children?"

The parents will be campaigning strongly against the decision. "We believe, as an educational institution, that there are certain ways of teaching and developing chil-dren; it should he done in a healthy manner," one father asserted. The Education Minister, Dr.

30, imposed a measure which would ban fathers from watching girls in gym slips compete in school sports.
Dr. Akaileh said that, "this would allow girls total freedom

to dispaly their skills without

embarrassment."

Abdullah Akaileh, on April

When a young girl asks her father to come and watch her at school, and the father says no, the girl will grow up with a complex, no doubt, many parents said.

Parents' reaction towards the minister's decision was unanimous. It is wrong, they

"We do not want to attack or change people's points of view, but we do not want this measure to be forced upon us either," said a mother,

Many parents saw this as a social problem, others thought it was purely an educational one, "There is so much to be done in the educational system. Students are studying from books that are ten years old. Why does the minister conceotrate on issues such as banning fathers from watching their daughters when an overhaul of the educational system is more importance?" asked one of the more outspoken

The meeting decided to gather all parents from private schools to compaign against the law, which many believe will affect the educational system, and to try rescind the decisioo.

In the meeting those parents attending said they would speak out and send peotions until the minister's decision is cancelled. "We will keep arguing against it because we feel it has nothing to do with education.'

Arab-Soviet dialogue ends, stresses need for peace conference, reviews ties

AMMAN (J.T.) - A two-day Arab-Soviel dialogue, which focused on issues ranging from the Middle East question to Soviet-Arab economic cooperation, ended in Amman Thursday evening, and the five-member Soviet delegation left for home Friday.

Wounding up the visit, the Soviet delegacion's leader Professor Mikhail Kapitsa announced that his country was determined to pursue all efforts to maintain the traditional ties with the Arab

At a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. following the final session, Prof. Kapitsa called on world nations to show better understanding of the issues of the Middle East and to help the people of this region establish security and stability.

Prince Hassan expressed bope that close cooperation and a compreheosive dialogue between the Arabs and the Soviet Union would continue in an atmosphere of understanding and positive openness to serve the interests of the two sides.

Addressing the meeting, at Al Hussein Youth City and attended by all delegates participaong in the dialogue, the Crown Prince emphasised the importance of upholding the internacional legiomacy, which, he said, should be manifested through the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to ensure a lasting settlement to the Middle East problem.

Prince Hassan said that the Middle East was now passing through a crucial stage that was bound to affect its future poliocal, social and economic life.

He urged concerned parties to maintain dialogue among the countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, between the Palestinians and the Israelis and among nadons of the Middle East region along the principles of the Helsinki Agreement which charted cooperation among European nations.

The Arab-Soviet dialogue, which was organised in Amman hy the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), issued a statement noong

that the participants bave reviewed working papers dealing with peace in the Middle East, disarming the region, ways to bolster Arab-Soviet economie cooperation and means of ensuring security for the region.

According to the statement the participants agreed that massing of military arsenals in the region constituted a source of danger not only for the Arabs but the whole region and world

The participants voiced total support for the idea of holding a eace conference to ensure a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem, based on U.N. Security council resolutions 242 and 338 said the statement.

Matters related to future economic cooperation hetween the Soviet Union and various Arah countries were all discussed indepth during the two-day dia-

The participatns decided to hold the fifth Arab-Soviet dia-

Labour federation criticises employers of non- Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FILU) Friday voiced strong criticism of the employers and owners of various husinesses employing non-Jordanian workers and said that they were trying to find a way around the labour regulations with the purpose of keeping the non-Jordanian work-

The Federation's Secretary General Abdul Halim Khaddam told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that only a limited favourable response was displayed by the employers with regard to the recent Labour Ministry's measures to find work for Jordanians, and many of the employers were trying to find a way around the regulations without giving due consideration to the national in-

try to find work for thousands of workers seeking employment through stimulating the activides of the Vocaconal Training Corporatioo (VTC), which bas prepared training programmes for the job-seekers.

Labour Ministry's recent measures as contribuong towards resolving the problem of unemployment in Jordan, said Mr. Khaddam. He said that the federation had contributed towards this aim by urging workers to seek employment offices' assistance to register for training programmes and to assume available jobs.

Mr. Khaddam said that by offering workers JD 70 a month, and forcing them to work for 16 hours a day, the employmers were placing obstacles in the path of finding solutions to the unemployment problem. Mr. Khaddam said that the new labour law dealt with all

those issues and other problems facing the labour class in Jordan. Mr. Khaddam last January met with Prime Minister Mudar Bad-Mr. Khaddam's accusations ran who told him that the governfollowed a spate of measures ment was putting the finishing conducted by the Labour Ministouches on the new labour law which would be suhmitted to

Parliament for debate. Mr. Khaddam said that the new law provided protection to the Jordanian Workers, giving them immunity against arbitrary

The federation considers the stitutions, and backed the workers' just causes.

He said that the law covered workers oot only in the factories and institutions, but also on the farms, and provided for the workers' rights to organise unions.

In addition, the new labour law limits the minimum wages for workers through specialised committees representing the government, the employers and the workers, Mr. Khaddam said.

He said that the new labour law was needed to cater to the new development in the labour market and for the sake of controlling the Jordanian labour market. "It is needed to give the workers new legislations catering to the new democracic life which offers more liberties to the Jordanian people, including the freedom of forming new trade unions." Mr. Khaddam added.

12: Mr. Khaddam urged employers and businesses to respond favourably to the Labour Ministry's measures concerning employment and said that his federatioo was willing to cooperate with them with the purpose of safedismissal from private sector in- guarding national interests.

47 killed on the roads in April

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 47 people were killed and 791 others injured in 2,061 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in April, according to a statistical hulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD).

These accidents registered an increase of 237 over those of people dropped by 34, the bulletin noted.

According to the bulletin, 239 vehicles were involved in the past March, 1991, and an increase in month's accidents. Amman regthe number of dead by 18, istered the highest number of although the number of injured accidents, 1,264, resulting in the death of 18 citizens and the injury



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS MECHA-NISED DIVISION: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Thursday visited one of the formations of the 4th Royal Mechanised

Division where he was received by the division and unit commanders and senior Armed Forces officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by the unit commander on the duties assigned to his unit.

Zarqa governor urges setting up fund for environment protection

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Gov-ernor Mobammad Hussein Shobaki Friday called for undertaking studies on the feasibility of using water from Zarqa River for irrigation purposes, and proposed the establishment of a fund to protect the environment. The fund will be financed by the various companies and factories

in the governorate.

Mr. Shobaki stressed the need to address the issue of pollution. mainly bacterial, organic and from soluble pollutants, and called on companies and factories to set up special purification plants to treat liquid waste before dumping it.

Such treatment plants, he said,

He also requested owners of

factories and companies to con-

nect their factories to the main

sewerage network, after prepar-

are badly needed to avoid the

hazards that polluted waste poses to the life of people, animals and to the soil, and to enable the utilisation of treated water for industrial or agricultural buring the necessary specification and undertaking lab tests for samples of water on a daily basis. The governor noted that the Public Safety Committee in Zar-

qa has drawn up various plans, in cooperation with the parties concerned, to safeguard the environment in the area adjacent to the Zarga River,

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Real pictures from a good old town

TELEVISION regaled us a few days ago with pictures of Crown Prince Hassan's field trip to Zarqa and his mingling with labourers, officials and good old citizens going about their work and doing their shopping in the marketplace. Beyond the happy expression of meeting their Crown Prince in casual clothes and near their bomes, bowever, Zarqa residents must have found the visit important on at least two counts: First, Zarqa is the second biggest city in the country yet it is one of the most impoverished and neglected among its sister towns. Second, for His Royal Highness to go there now, having visited there not so long ago, means that if the government has forgotten about their ordeal, not everybody who counts has. That Zarqa and Zarqans epitomise the malaise of the Kingdom is a foregone conclusion. The plight of the Zarqa residents is readily noticed upon even the most superficial visit, not to mention an in-depth tour as the one carried out by Prince Hassan on Monday.

Unemployment there is rampant, city planning is at its worst and social problems abound. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that if there was discontent and despair in the Kingdom, Zarqa would be the foremost sufferer from such ills. To get acquainted with Zarqa's misfortunes at the level of the Crown Prince offers, therefore, some good opportunities to get the pulse of the country's neglected citizens at close range. The Maan eruption of 1989 need not occur again as a prelude to initiate remedial actions that may serve as preventive medicine for any simmering disorders in the country. Only by identifying the woes of the people and moving to address them immediately would the government be in a position to assess local and civic problems and undertake to rectify them. What is especially wise and important about Prince Hassan's field trip to Zarga is the lesson that ought to be learned about governor and governed staying in touch with each other and consolidating communication between them. There is every bope that others especially government ministers and senior officials would follow in the footsteps of the Prince in this endeavour provided they do so with faithful intent to come to grips with the demands and rights of the public rather than aim for a public relations score.

Needless to say, such intimate contact with the people of the Kingdom is a symbol of democracy. In this vein, few parliamentarians have really bothered to mix with the citizens of their respective constituencies on any scale resembling real political life. Likewise, seldom does one see politicians hit the streets to rub shoulders with the masses in any impressive way. The Prince's Zarqa tour is therefore a signal to all concerned that such field trips deserve to be undertaken regularly and frequently.

The people of Zarqa as elsewhere in the country expect action-oriented measures to remedy their difficulties where they exist. But before that, it is always useful for government representatives to go and see things as they are on the ground, not just hear about them from the comfort of their offices in Amman.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic paper Friday discussed Israel's continued obstinacy with regard to the implementation of U.N. resolutions; and stressed that the responsibility should be squarely placed on the United States which had assumed the task of implementing the international legitimacy. The credibility of the United States and President Bush and his administration now lie hostage to the Zionist attitude and it is upto Washington now to find out whether it should remain captive to the world Zionism and risk losing all credibility or take active steps to free itself and free this region from the atmosphere of war and terrorism, said the paper. World Zionism is seeking to abort Washington's endeavours to reach peace in the region and it is diving to show the world that the United States is capable of launching wars like that in the Gulf but incapable of making peace any where in the world, noted the paper. Of course Israel saw in Washington's war on Iraq a chance to pursue its own war on the Arabs and to maintain its expansionist policies in Arab land, but by so doing it is placing the U.S. administration face to face with the moment of truth, the paper added. The daily urged Egypt to join forces with the United States to force Israel to comply with the international legitimacy and implement U.N. resolutions instead of blaming the United States for failing to exercise pressure on Israel. Egypt, said the paper, is the only Arab country linked to the Jewish state through a peace treaty and Egypt's political weight should now be utilised so that a lasting peace can be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for condemning a U.N. General Assembly resolution, equating Zionism with racism. There is a big similarity between the Zionists who occupy Arab land, kill innocent people, detain thousands others, demolisb homes and evict civilians from their bomeland in the occupied Arab lands and their counterparts in South Africa, says Tareq Masarweb. Through his long service at the United Nations, de Cuellar should have come to realise these facts. De Cuellar considers the General Assembly resolution as impeding peace; but he does not consider Israel's continued occupation of parts of Syria, Palestine and Lebanon and the annexation of Jerusalem and the atrocities committed by the Zionists as obstructing all paths leading to peace, says the writer. If de Cuellar is sympathetic towards the Iraqi Kurds, why is he indifferent towards the Palestinian Arabs who are exposed to repression? asks Masarweh. The writer considers de Cuellar's statements as un-ethical and do not conform to the spirit of the U.N. charter and the universal declaration of human rights. He condemns the statements as coming from a man who has transformed himself as a tool in the U.S.-Israeli band.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

What are the characteristics of new world order?

COMING in the wake of the Gulf war, the first signs of the new world order are ominous indeed; begotten by violence unequal in historical annals not only in its intensity but fierceness and swiftness as well. Was the lesson only for Iraq? What was the lesson designed to achieve? The calming of nerves of certain jittery mini-states with look-alike armies or does it have wider

If one of the characteristics of the new world order then is violence, the second is the monopoly of that violence by the one superpower and its partners. In his 1991 state of the union message President Busb proclaimed before the United States Congress "... we are Americans. We have a unique responsibility to do the hard work of freedom." Mr. Bush, however, did not elaborate on whose freedom be was talking about. In January the president stated: "When we win - and we will - we will have taught a dangerous dictator, and any tyrant tempted to follow in his foot steps, that the U.S. bas a new credibility and that what we

what these two statements declare is that the United States already views itself as the guarantor of the security of the coming world order. Couching its intentions in language that claims moral ascedency does not bide the real underlying intentions. Had the United States track record been different in Latin America, the Carribean and indeed elsewhere, one would be tempted to

The problem for us in the Arab World has been compounded by the fact that the United States continues to deal with two measures. It's double standard vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and its constant demuring before Israeli - Zionist pressure have been major causes for the continued condition of chaos and hopelessness in the Arab World. And while no one any longer concerns himself with the Arab mini-leaders, the U.S. patronises. or with the fact that it has effectively become in control of oil, some concern remains that the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to

Many Arabs, aware that due to internal as well as external reasons the Arab World cannot at the moment aspire to a loftier status, have no opinion regarding a unipolar world and might, should the U.S. achieve an equitable peace settlement of the Palestine problem, become its supporters. There is no enmity between Arab and American per se. In fact, no Arab and American soldiers faced each other in active combat except in Barbary wars and recently in the Gulf war. A unipolar-led world, with a single unified will, and should it truly deal with one

measure, might be preferable to the utter confusion, conflict and rivalry that has been the condition of international relations since the down of history.

The fear in the Arab World, as indeed in the rest of the Third World, is that there will be more than one measure, and that the justice that will prevail will be that of the jungle, of the strong posing its will on the less fortunate.

What the world needs right now is not merely lofty declarations, but assurances regarding what is to come. Since the United States advanced the idea, it is the United States that must explain it. The fear ouside the United States is real. Writing in a Mexican daily, commentator R. U. Iniesta says, "... the justice of the 'new order' already bas exhibited a pattern of action against anyone who does not submit to the U.S. president..." President Mitterrand of France says, "no one can claim that from now on one country decides for all." Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad of Malaysia adds, "... people now live in fear of the U.S., believe me... if you are friendly with the U.S., that is fine. But if you annoy them, they can take action like they did in Panama. There is no more Russia you can turn to."

The saddest aspect of the matter between the Arabs and the Americans is that no one is truly annoying the latter any way. What is needed is not more rbetorie but genuine actions taken by the U.S. to reassure the world of its intentions: A new credibility. What is just as needed is for the U.S. to free itself from the tentacles of Zionist influence so it can truly become credible and work towards the achievement of the principles it preaches to the

Thus far, the new world order advanced by the U.S. remains terra incognita to the rest of the world: a shadowy land more jungle than anything else.

The world appears to be - wbether we like it or not - on the doorsteps of something new. Not only the coming of the twenty-first century, but the chance to aspire to achieve a new world: a new world that is built truly on mutual respect, partnership and a share in bumanity; and not a world that is haunted by the real or imaginery prejudices of the past including the shadowy influence of Zionism.

That is wby it is not acceptable to hear someone like U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger say of the new world "... I cannot describe to you what the new world order ought to look like..." If you don't know, what them are you proposing or indeed imposing?

Gulf war leaves world economic outlook muddier

gures show the economy con-

tracted at an annual rate of 2.8

Some of the United States'

best-known corporations have re-

ported large first-quarter losses

and seem reluctant even to specu-

This is a time of extraordinary

demands on our business." said

General Motors Corp. Chairman

Robert Stempel in assessing

GM's S-1.1 billion first-quarter

Borrowed money still perme-

ates the economy at all levels,

ranging from credit card bills to

state budget gaps to the federal

\$3.5 trillion, nearly quadruple the

level of a decade ago.

debt, which is hurtling towards

Money that could go for jobs,

capital spending, education and research goes instead to pay in-

terest on loans or help bail out

the savigs and loans and banks

doubt the United States can bor-

row its way out of recession as it

has done in previous downturns.

Foreigners who sell goods and

services in the U.S. market will

suffer, weakening their econo-

mies and eventually eroding their

ability to buy what America pro-

recession, that means spending

declines, not just on domestic

Keith Johnson, a senior econom-

ist at Morgan Guaranty Trust

Co., a large New York bank.

Since imported goods are pro-

Hopeful signals are flashing

from some corners, however. The

stock market, for example, which

has a respectable record of pre-

saging recessions and recoveries,

has been rallying. The Dow Jones

industrial average, the best-known barometer of Wall Street.

hit an all-time high of 3.004.46 on

Home sales show some evi-

dence of stirring from a pro-

longed coma. Inflation seems to

be receding, partly because the

of sharply higher energy prices.

Surveys of consumers who hiber-

nated during the war have sug-

gested they're more confident in

lieves the economy is about to

turn around. The president him-

self, seeking a catalyst for

growth, has exhorted bankers to

lower the cost of borrowing in

this country, and the Federal

Reserve. the nation's central

bank, has cooperated by en-

gineering lower interest rates. Bush also has pushed free trade

with Mexico, one of the few

expanding Latin economies, as

part of a grand plan to stimulate

economic activity throughout

The Bush administration be-

duced abroad, it affects economic

growth abroad."

April 17.

the future.

goods but imported goods." said

"When a country goes into

Against sucb odds, there's

late on when improvements will

be seen.

per cent in the first quarter.

By Rick Gladstone The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly three months after allied forces evicted Iraq's army from Kuwait, skepticism has tinged predictions of a postwar economic renaissance; led by a spiritually renewed United States.

A recession that the U.S. govemment now acknowledges began last summer shows little evidence of ending and is flashing some troublesome signals of worsening.

If anything, some forecasters say, the Gulf war and its aftermath have muddied the world's economic waters.

'The invasion of Kuwait didn't start the recession, so the end of the war didn't end it," said Audrey Freedman, an economist at the Conference Board, a New York business-research group,

The economic news is not all bad. Leading indicators charted by the U.S. government have shown improvement, and consumer confidence indexes are up. But the promise of recovery still outweighs the evidence so far.

One private assessment produced by the Conference Board shows weakness spreading rapidly and deeply across the global economy. Its composite leading index of major industrialised nations, which projects future economic conditions, fell at an annual rate of four per cent in April, compared with a two per cent drop three months earlier and two per cent growth six months ago.

Economists say a number of problems have conspired to cause a powerful worldwide slowdown. which not only predated the war but in some respects has grown more intense.

Highly indebted Third World nations owe more money than ever, and with few exceptions are all in decline, parily because of the flogging they took from higher energy prices following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Eastern Europe, barely a year ago a fertile field of opportunity for western investors, is reeling backward, starved for capital and wracked by unemployment and inflation.

The Soviet economy itself has largely collapsed, making frustrated westerners more wary about doing business there.

Powerhouse Germany is suffering indigestion over the unification of Communist east and capitalist west. Japan's mighty economy has slowed and its longstanding trade feud with the United States has grown testier.

In the Gulf region itself, the enormous cost of rebuilding from the war will suck billions of investment dollars away from other

As for the United States, new jobless claims and layoffs are rising, while factory orders and auto sales fall. Government fi-

New Arab league chief is a believer in quiet diplomacy

By Munir Boweti Reuter

CAIRO - Esmat Abdul Maguid, elected secretary general of the 21-member Arab League on Wednesday, is a tough negotiator who believes in quiet diplomacy.

A lawyer turned diplomai, Abdul Maguid, 68, was Egypt's United Nations ambassador when he retired in 1983 after a long dicareer. Months later president Hosni Mubarak called him out of retirement lo become foreign minister.

Abdul Maguid favours close ties with the United States and upholding Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel. He took part in the U.S.-sponsored negotiations that produced the treaty, the only one between Israel and an Arab

He is also known to support palestinian calls for self-determination' including stalehood.

country.

Born into a well-to-do family in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in 1923, he obtained a doctorate in international law in Paris in 1951 and was twice ambassador to France.

He was chosen for his first negotiating role as a member of the Egyptian delegation negotiating British evacuation from the Suez Canal. The talks led to the 1954 Anglo-Egyptian agree-

To the Editor

population as well.

drastically.

LETTER

Raise your voices

""MESSAGES' from the omnipotent" published on May 15, was a well-written article that perfectly expressed my point of view

and I dare say, that of quite a few other people of the silent

A lot of decisions that affect our daily lives seem to be taking

place without our consent these days, and what is terrifying is that an escalating pattern seems to be emerging from the "omnipo-

tent" powers that would like to dictate our way of life - what we

see in our free time and who is allowed or not allowed to watch

his/her children perform at school performances, which are

I do not claim to represent the majority of the population in my

opinions, but, after all, this is a democracy and every citizen has

the right to voice his/her opinions. I am exercising my right and

hoping that more people will do so before we are overwhelmed

with decisions we do not approve of but which affect our lives

mainly staged for parents in the first place.

Abdul Maguid was then head of the United Kingdom desk at the foreign

under the late president Gamal Abdul Nasser, he was head of the state information service. Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, appointed him minister of state for cabinet affairs in 1970 and two years later he was made Egypt's U.N. representative.

As foreign minister, he commitment to peace with Israel. But in recent years he has become sharply critical of its treatment of Palestinians under occupa-

A milestone in his early days in office was the resumption of ties with the Soviet Union after a fiveyear break. He is partly credited for

winning Egypt's case against Israel in a dispute over the 700-metre Taba border strip, returned to Egypt in 1989 through international arbitration.

He ran Egyptian Diplomacy as Arab states gradually restored ties with Cairo, broken over the peace treaty with Israel.

Egypt was reinstated as a full member of the Arab League in 1989 after a 10year suspension, and the league's headquarters moved back to Cairo on January 1 after 11 years in Tunis. Abdul Maguid is married

with three sons.

Hana Ramadan

voice heard, said Dhiban.

The writer said that the ball is now in the government's court and it is the duty of Parliament members to urge the government to act im-mediately. His views were echoed by Mohammad Daoud who said that by avoiding the meeting the ministers have complicated matters for the

Writing in Al Dustour, the columnist stressed that the question of contaminated water reaching the crops was a serious matter that required solution on the national level. and by avoiding the matter now or postponing decisions can only aggravate the situa-

Another columnist, tackling the situation urged the government to refer the matter to the judiciary and said that a court rnling can serve justice to all parties. Khalil Khouri said in Sawt Al-Shaab that the Jordan Valley is the main source for food supplies in Jordan and those responsible for the disas-ter there should face trial and get punishment while the farmers ought to be compensated. The farmers may have lost JD 60 million worth of crops, said the writer, but the country's food security is now at

Ahmad Dabbas in Sawt Al

Another columnist, Tareq Masarweb, criticised the government ministers for giving conflicting views about the causes behind the destruction of the crops, and for failing to take prompt action to stop the pollution.

columnist also criticised the minister of education for barring fathers from attending youth activities in which their daughters take part, and the minister of agriculture for insisting on allowing goats to graze in forests while realising that the animals tend to eat off the trees and endanger the

The writer pointed out that these ministers' actions are doing no good for the country. His views were echoed by the editor of social affairs in Al Ra'i who said that the educa-

tion minister's decision contradicts the very principle of causing an interaction within the Jordanian society and has no educational objective nor can it be of service to Islam.

the whole Jordanian society to deal with and not for the minister alone, the writer noted.

This week in print

SEVERAL TOPICS ranging from James Baker's mission in the Middle East to the destruction of crops in the Jordan Valley as a result of irrigation. with polluted water from the King Talai Dam were covered extensively by the local dailies in the past week.

Ahmad Dhiban writing in

Sawt Al Shaab was strongly critical of the three ministers who were supposed to attend a meeting with the valley farmers to discuss the problem and means to avert further disasters to the crops. Pained at seeing their crops dying and frustrated with the attitude of the officials who failed to turn up for the meeting, the farmers are not to blame for staging a protest march to make their

government

tion for the country as a whole.

Shaab said that the factories along the Zarqa river which dumped waste that flowed to the King Talal Dam that irrigates the valley farmlands are to blame for the whole situation. Therefore, be said, a solution to the agricultural sector lies with the treatment of the waste water reaching the King Talal Dam, and the govfications for this matter and ensure their implementation.

Two columnists were particularly critical of government ministers who busy themselves with unimportant matters and tend to ignore the real issues and the real substance of problems plaguing the Jordanian economy. Salameh Ekour who writes in Sawt Al Shaab said that instead of tackling the issues of water contamination. the destruction of the crops in the Jordan Valley, the question of poverty and unemployment in the Kingdom and many other issues Parliament members and ministers are nowadays busying themselves. with such question as separating men from women in government departments, issuing orders as to who can or cannot attend the school sports events and whether school girls should or should not put on the veil. These people elected to do their job ought to find solutions for the country's real problems, stressed Ekour.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily the

The education problem is for

Writing on the same topic in Sawt Al Shaab Nidal Sukhtian said that the students taking part in school events are in deed encouraged to do so when they realise that their parents would be watching their skills and this gives in petus to students to take part in more youth activities. The writer noted that parents take pride in watching their children involved in useful activities and the government should not take any step to halt such human feeling.

At least one columnist tackled tourism. Mohammad Dacudieh noted that thousands of Iraqis are now making plans to visit Jordan in the wake of the Gulf war and are making arrangements to come this summer. Jordan which abounds with summer resorts and archaeological sites can only welcome such a move and open the way for the visitors who can stimu-late the tourism industry that lay domaint for so long due to the Gulf crisis.

But, he said, apart from visiting places of interest, the Iraqis will be buying their needs and using our hotels and restaurants and national products. The writer-called on the private and public sectors to make full preparations to receive the visitors and to offer all tourists the best that Jordan can offer. Another columnist tackled the

question of unsettled telephone hills and said that those defaulting are businesses and individuals who massed fortunes through the use of telephones for local and long distance calls. Ahmad Dabbas said that by failing to settle their dues these citizens are stealing from public funds, a crime that should not be ignored.

The Arab League Council meeting in Cairo Wednesday was discassed by Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily. The only candidate to the post of Arab League secretary general was Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Megnid, and in the light of the unanimous support on the part of the Arab countries of this candidate, one can conclude that Arab governments realise the role which Egypt can play in the Arab arena, and, therefore, Cairo is expected to act towards unifying the Arab ranks and ending divisions resulting from the Gulf crisis, said Rimawi. He said it is unfortunate to see Egypt pur suing the same policies adopted during the crisis and has not shown any sign of relenting yet.

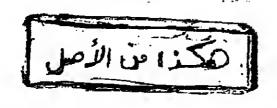
. There is a real and serious imbalance in inter-Arab relations, and one sign of this was recently manifested in Egypt's sudden decision to pull out its forces from the Gulf region regardless of the Damascos declaration which arranged for Syria and Egypt to retain forces in the Gulf, the writer noted. This situation, he said, requires immediate action to revive solidarity among Arab states and safeguard national Arab interests.

For Taher Al Udwan, Egypt's decision to pull out from the Gulf contradicted the Damsseus dec-laration and the spirit of solidarity. Writing in Al Dustour Udwan said that Egypt's decision was moti-vated by dissatisfaction with the GCC policies which gave preference to the presence of American forces and the Kuwaiti government's refusal to allow Egyptian firms to have a share in the reconstruction of Kuwait. The writer said that the Egyptians will soon discover the grave loss the Arabs sustained by allowing the foreign and it would not be long before those 'Arabs who backed the American-led alliance realised their grave blunder.

Several columnists tackled the latest tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Mustafa Abu Libdeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily described the on-going superpower efforts as part of a joint strategy aimed at dividing their spheres of influence in the region at a time when the American and Soviet leaders' political future is at stake. The writer noted that President Bush is faced with his role in the Irangate scandal and the negotiations with the Iranian rulers in 1980 on delaying the release of the American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran until Reagan has been installed as president.

He said that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is faced with enormous problems at home and the coming few months could witness his downfall. Although the U.S. Soviet approach to settle the Middle East issue seems to be acceptable to the Arabs, it is threatened with total collapse at any time, said the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi went a step further by pointing out that the U.S. administration does not intend to implement the inte al legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions but aims to establish relations between the Arabs and Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people whose prob-lem it considers as an internal problem for Israel. The writer noted that Washington is not only aiming at ending the state of war between Israel on the one hand and its Arab neighbours on the other, but rather to establish ties between Israel and all the Arab countries including those in the Gulf region. That delaying action in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict can only complicate matters and the lack of genuine and lasting peace can only create a chimate for future conflict.



Western Europeans seek peacebroker's role

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO - In the wake of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's high-profile tour of the Middle East, Enrope looked as though it was taking the back seat in the region. But a recent delegation sent by the Western European Union (WEU) to Cairo has reaffirmed Europe's will to play an active part in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Led by French Senator Robert Pontillon, the WEU Commission met Eygptian leaders and discussed the post-Gulf war situation, as well as ideas for future cooperation and development. Set up in 1948 and amended in 1954 to include West Germany, the WEU includes nine member countries. Operating in parallel to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the WEU long seen as a shadowy organisation with abstract amis is now gaining in importance, in particu-lar in France. As the representatives of the only European body with defence and security responsibilities, the 15-member WEU delegation to Cairo also discussed disarmament and collective security in the region.

While the London-based WEU generally keeps a low profile, its officials point out that in 1987, during the Iran-Iraq war, it helped ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf. In the recent Kuwait-Iraq crisis it belped en-force the United Nations embargo against Iraq, as well as aiding coordination between the multinational naval forces. "It is not a well-known fact that we did a lot of the work in the Gulf' notes Pontilion, whose country currently bolds the one-year revolving presidency of the organisation. "Half of the ships involved in enforcing the embargo were flying the WEU flag. Since April 30, we have been involved in 70 per cent of the mine sweeping operations, as well as coordinating aid to the Kurdish refugees."

In Cairo, Egyptian officials were eager to discuss future relations, in particular the impact on. Egypt of the European Single Act of 1992 which will create a free market between the 12 EEC countries. Commented Pontillon: Our contacts at the highest level in Egypt revealed great coherence between the ambitions and views of both sides, 'Europe must be involved," President Mubarak

Enropeans and Egyptians agreed on the need for greater enforcement of international law in order to guarantee the rights of people such as the Kurds and the Palestinians. Pontillon stressed that the idea recently voiced by outgoing French Prime Minister Michel Rocard concerning the right to interference in the internal affairs of a country, in case of genocide, for example, is gaining support in international institutions. "Human rights violations affect the world as a whole," said Pontillon, "and the right of interference in the internal affairs of a state when human rights are concerned is a concept that can go a long way within the context of the United Nations. The U.N. system allowed for the operation in the Gulf and there is reason to hope that a Military Staff Committee could be established. The committee is provided for by the U.N. Charter, but it has never

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antagonisms. An international force could then be created to be mobilised at very short notice when needed by the secretary general. The Europeans are heading in the direction of this idea, and Egypt agrees fully."

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, chair-

man of the British delegation and president of the WEU's Commitree for Rules of Procedure and Privileges, explained: "The U.N.'s dream is to have its own police force. This has been impossible until now for many reasons, but as a result of the changes in the Soviet Union's position after it saw China align itself with the U.N. decisions concerning the Gulf crisis, I believe in the coming decade it will be possible to have a force placed under the secretary general without running up against the veto of the Security Council. But in order for this to become a reality, we must have trust."

Trust, say members of the European delegation, is a key element for the future of the Middle East region. "We have spent the past 40 years dominated by the logic of East-West tension," noted the Vice-President of the WEU, Spain's Miguel Ange Martinez. "I think we have already gone some way to adopting the rule of International Law. This is important progress in the context of the post-Gulf war era. We must take advantage of the cobesion in the international community and use the impetus to solve many other conflicts that

The Spanish official added that the emphasis must now be placed on respect for International Law. "We need to lay down the rules and set up the framework." he added, "This is in fact essential for progress in the development of international relations, and therefore of humanity."

In the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the European and Egyptian officials discussed problems such as Israel's continued policy of establishing settlements in the West Bank. Also on the agenda was the recent proposal for a regional conference and Israel's intransigence concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation that would attend the talks, as well as the question of Europe's participation.
"It is impossible to ask one side

to make an effort when the other side is not prepared to make the same effort," commented Sir Geoffrey Finsberg. "That being said, we condemn the (creation of) Israeli settlements. But I must add that we must stop being pessimistic. Who could have foretold the rise of Gorbachev and subsequent events? This is an example of how one person bas changed the nature of international relations. The point here is that we need to get a similar process going and start a thaw in relations. We must place our faith in intelligence and wisdom."

The WEU President Pontillon is adamant when it comes to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's demands regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation that would attend the conference: "The WEU bas never passed a clear resolution on this subject, so I speak personally," he indicated. "But I contest the Israeli government's right to choose the Palestinian delegachoose those who are to speak for them. I did not agree with the PLO's position during the Gulf war," he added, referring to the PLO's support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "At the same time, there should be no interference in the Palestinian people's choice of their own representatives. Neither Israel, nor any other country, has the right to decide who is qualified to speak in the name of the Palestinians and decide on their future."

In addition, Pontillon is critical of Israel's rejection of European participation in a peace conference. "We do not understand Israel's attitude and we do not accept it. Israel should not forget that Europe helped it establish itself in the Middle East. Nor should Israel forget that most of its leaders have nes to Europe." One point in favour of peace is that there is evidence of a growing discrepancy between the conservan've Israeli government's policies and public opinion. For example, recent polls showed that 58 per cent of Israelis now favour ending direct rule of the West Bank and Gaza, up from 50 per cent a year ago and 46 per cent five years ago.

The WEU representatives expressed optimism concerning a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Manuel Soarez Costa of Portugal noted: "Our fundamental aim is to achieve peace and stability in the region, and this implies a solution to the Arab-Israeli problem, the Lebanese problem, the Kurdish problem, etc. This will have to be done with respect for the territorial integrity of the countries of the region. But peace is sometimes more difficult to win than war. We need to take it is stages and the first step is confidence, A 40-year-old problem cannot be solved overnight."

We must break the confrontation pattern and react to questionable attitudes with firmness," Pontillon said. "We must establish a pattern of persuasion, conviction and confidence. Who would have believed four years ago that the Berlin wall would be torn down? It is true that the Arab-Israeli issue is emotionally charged and that there is uselessly aggressive behaviour. What is also true is that Europe wants to play a fully-fledged role in bringing about a solution ... the most important thing is for the two sides to meet and sit at he same table. Once that happens, the process will be on its way."

The French senator concluded that there is also work to be done in Europe, where be admits, public opinion is ill-informed on the problems of the region. 'For example, people do not realise there are really two Palestinian questions, he said, arguing that the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip pose different prob-lems. "The Gaza Strip alone presents a whole series of extremely serious human and political problems. Those same human rights we were talking about are being violated, and the European Community should react. I do nor wish to talk about sanctions in this context, but I believe that a change in public opinion in our countries could finally bring some pressure to bear on Israel" World News Link.

Israeli 'tourists' in Cyprus kept happy

By Panos Porictaous

LAST Thursday (May 9), the Nicosia District Court imposed a fine of 500 pounds per head on four Israelis fur trespassing with intent to commit a felony. Upon hearing the ruling the Israelis smiled in relief. By now, the Israelis, who are used to having things their own way. must be back home and chances are that they are not just similing. They have every right to laugh at the Cyprus judicial system, the police and the government itself. This case cannot be casually dismissed as a simple incident as the light sentence imposed implies.

The four Israelis were not just trespassing on the night of April 23, 1991. They were meddling with the telephone junction box in the building that houses the Iranian embassy clearly intending to bug the embassy's telephones. Initially, the prosecution had filed charges against the perpetrators for conspiracy to commit a felony, loitering in suspicious

circumstances, trying to damage telephone cables, attempring to eavesdrop on the franian Embassy phones and carrying wireless transceivers without permission.

But the prosecution suddenly decided to drop all the charges, because, as Assistant Attorney General Loucaides said, the basic elements and facts were sufficiently covered by the trespassing charge! This line of thinking is truly incredible since it is not clear how a simple charge for trespassing, a civil offence, is the equivalent of a criminal offence which also carries clear political connotations.

But it is not just the court which should be blamed for letting the accused get away in such light fashion. The whole story made the police force look like the idiots and subordinates of a hand full of tsraeli embassy security officials who single-handedly, and in complete disregard to existing procedures, behaved as if they were the local police

When the four Israelis arrived at court the embassy officials jostled journalists around to make room for the accused while Cyprus policemen stood by watching. The security guards are even said to have

carried weapons. And throughout this travesty of legal proceedings, the gov-ernment kept a low profile as if innmidated by the Israeli show of arrogance and disregard of the fact that, after all, this incident occurred in Cyprus and the case was to be decided by a Cypriot court, not an Israeli court. Either way the Israelis got what they wanted. a favourably court ruling that dismissed the probability for embarrassment of the Israeli state abroad, while delivering a slap in the face of the Iranians

offended. Is this case of applying double standards, even of being racist? One need only consider what an Arab would have to go through in a similar case. Never mind the fact that he would surely be deported or jailed or that he would be considered a terrorist even before entering through the doors of Nicosia District Court. These days, the word Arab has skillfully been turned in to a synonym for terrorist

who have every right to feel

anyway. When Arabs arrive at Larnaca airport enroute to another destination, and have to stay in Cyprus overnight, they are stripped of their passports and made to sleep inside the airport. But this is understandable. After all they are Arabs. And for those Arabs who are so daring as to want to stay in Cyprus for more than one night, the police have more tricks up their sleeves. Policemen make regular visits to car rental areas and pick up customer catalogues. If an Arah name is on the list, the police are certain to pick up the guy's address, pay him a visit and give him some of the old Cypriot policy harassment that only an Arab is worthy of. But

this is understandable. Every

Arab deserves what he geis.

Now if the police were so clever as to pick up the names of Israetis renting cars — but of course they are not - they would have followed the four Israelis, who posed as couples on a tourist visit, and would have caught them in the act of preparing and carrying out the crimes for which they were accused. But they didn't presumably because Israelis are generally considered good people while Arabs are not. As a result. Arabs can be harassed even when they do not commit a crime whereas Israelis can harass everyone else even when they do commit a crime.

But this simple conclusion, though a bit stretched, is not

the end of this story. Because the Arabs may be naive, but not so naive as to swallow everything. And although the Iranians are not Arabs, they are still bound to be unhappy with what has transpired in this case. Iran and a host of Arab countries are traditional friends of Cyprus who have patiently stood by us in international forums. Playing games with that patience is not good policy. Doing favours to the Israelis is one thing. But if doing so also means offending another friendly country, the whole art of international diplomacy for the government will sooner or later turn into a

risky business.

best part of the world as far as political differences go. By being part of the volatile Middte East, this country usually finds herself in the posinon of having to maintain a delicate balance between the countries of the area that are not odds with each other, and this is not a simple task. But punishing one iside even when it is clearly the victim, is now good policy. The Iranian Embassy has kept a low profile in this case and they should be commented for that unlike their fsraeli counterparis who have shoved everyone aside until they got what they wanted. The Cyprus government may have good reason to worry - Cyprus

Cyprus is not situated in the

Kuwait lacks equipment, data to deal with environmental disaster

KUWAIT (R) — Birds drop from the sky as if shot, cattle keel over while eating contaminated grass. People in Kuwait are worried but the government is unable to assess the human health risks posed by oilfield infernos.

Nearly three months after about 600 oil wells were set ablase in the war, igniting one of the world's worst environmental disasters, the first are still sending up thick, acrid smoke containing tonnes of toxic gas and acid.

"I believe this is about the same size as Chernobyl ... the only difference is that toxic, not nuclear, gas is involved," Art van Remundt, director of the environmental group Earthtrust, said referring to the Soviet nuclear accident in 1986.

Assessing the potential health risk has become more urgent as the 400,000 Kuwaitis who either or were abroad when Iraqi troops invaded on Aug. 2 began flying back Saturday.

Some of the first to arrive said they would go back to Europe as soon as possible after getting their homes and affairs in order to escape the pollurion and the summer beat. Jassim Al Hassan, a biochemist

who leads a group of 23 Kuwaiti scientists surveying the effects of the pollution, said their major difficulty was lack of equipment. "The problem is too immense

to be handled by Kuwait or regional authorities. The problem is international and we need the expertise of the world to take care of the situation." Mr. Hassan said. His Kuwait Environmental Ac-

tion Team is working with Mr. Van Remundt's Hawaii-based group, which until 1986 was called Save the Whales, to help the authorines identify and tackle the emirate's environmental prob-

Dubbing the pollution "killer smog," the Earthtrust team reports growing numbers of cows, sheep and donkeys dying in areas near Kuwait City from feeding on contaminated grasses.

Migrating birds flying over the Gulf are dipping into oil pools in the desert, mistaking them for water, Mr. Van Remundt said. Birds fall from the sky after

flying through the black smog clouds. Other birds as well as some animals blinded by the acids in the smoke are starving to death. White cats in the streets of Kuwait City have turned grey.

Sheep are black and the few patches of greenery around the oil fields have been covered with asphalt-like soot. "It is very bad. You have some

500 oil wells on fire, Some 100 have been put out but many are still gushing, pouring buge lakes of oil into the desert," Mr. Van Remundt said. He criticised the government for not offering advice on how

people could protect themselves, even though many reported they were feeling ill, especially near the oilfields. "The government is not that

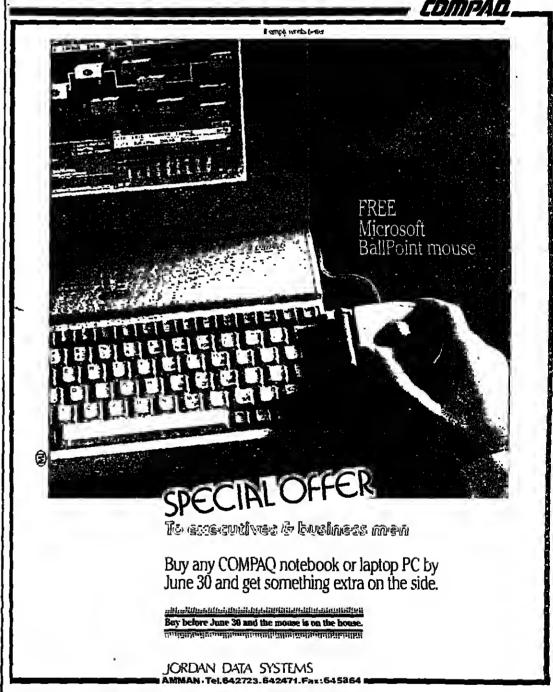
much aware of the problem, and that in itself is a problem to us," Mr. Van Remundi said. Mr. Hassan disagreed.

'A senior minister told me the pollntion issue is among the government's top priorities," he said, while noting that the state was preoccupied with other pressing concerns 10 weeks after Iraqi troops left Kuwait.

Mr. Hassan said he was putting rogetber a list of equipment needed to carry out research on the pollution.

He said the government was willing to spend millions of dollars on the equipment, without which no one could accurately gauge the effects of the pollution on the buman population.

Mr. Van Remunds said the group was preparing a report calling on the government to put out the oil fires quickly, offer clear advice and instructions, and carry out environmental tests.



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Sanchez has not lost a set yet at Italian Open

ROME (AP) — Pete Sampras said it rohbed him of his serve. Carlo and Hamburg. Nor is it the rice Santoro. Santoro reached the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 Andre Agassi couldn't wait to get off of it. But Emilio Sanchez says the slow red Foro Italico clay suits him just fine.

"I like it when its dry," he said, after reaching the quarterfinals of the Italian Open Thursday with a 6-2, 6-2 third round win over Wayne Ferreira.

"The surface is slow, but the ball still travels fast, and holds a lot of spin. It lets me do what I do

The tournament's ninth seed, Sanchez will meet Australian Richard Fromberg in the first quarterfinal match. Goran Prpic is slated to play Soviet Andrei Cherkasov in the second, followed by the inter-Argentine bat-tle between Alberto Mancini and Horacio de la Pena.

While the players seeded above him were eliminated in the first three rounds, Sanchez has not lost a set while quietly qualifying for the quarterfinals. "It may look easy," he said. "But it isn't. The guy I played today has a very good game. He just has a tough time finding his timing on clay."

The three consecutive wins have boosted Sanchez' confidence. "It feels good to have come this far," said the 25-yearold Spaniard. "Especially after I lost in the first round of my last two tournaments." But the memory that Sanchez

would most like to cancel is not that of his recent losses at Monte

the final to Ivan Lendl. It is his dramatic, gruelling, tbree-set semifinal loss to Andrei Chesnokov in Rome last year.

"I just don't want to think about it," says Sanchez, who has slipped to the 18th spot in world rankings after having climbed as bigh as seven last year.

"I know it was a great match, for both of us. But I was ahead all the time. I had my chances, and I didn't take them. And then, at the end, I lost in a tie break. It just didn't seem fair."

Both players were exhausted after the three hour marathon. A subdued Chesnokov lost the final to Thomas Muster in straight sets the following afternoon.

For an inveterate baseliner who rarely comes to net, Sanchez is a surprisingly sufficient doubles player. The world's fifth-ranked doubles player, he and his partner Sergio Casal led all teams on the tour with six titles in 1990.

In singles this year, Sanchez has won 15 matches while losing nine. Before his early exits at Hamburg and Monte Carlo, he reached the finals at Barcelona, losing to hometown favourite

Sergi Bruguera in the finals. Bruguera waltzed into the quarterfinals of the Italian Open with a 6-1, 6-2 one-hour win over Argentine qualifier Christian

He will meet Frenchman Fab-

Yugoslavia crushes Faroe islands 7-0

(7-5) victory over fellow French-

No. 6 seed Jim Courier lost to

Mancini won a three-set see-

saw match against Mark Koever-mans 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1). The

Argentine, who won three qual-

ifying matches to earn a place in

the Rome draw, fought back

De la Pena beat Germany's

For Bruguera, the highest of

the four seeded players to make it

to the third round, the Miniussi

match seemed little more than a

training session. Solid on the

haseline, and dangerous when the

Cherkasov, who played a tough

three-set match against Italy's

Stefano Pescosolido Wednesday

night, had to shake off another

awkward first set to beat Courier.

the beginning," he said after the two-hour, five-minute match.

'But after I was warmed up, I

started to move him around. He

was in a hig hurry to make points.

so the pressure was on him. Once

I started making my shots, I knew

Olympic ticket fiasco," said the

IAAF were involved in a row

over the distribution of tickets for

the athletics events in Barcelona.

It said LAAF would have a

showdown next week with the

John Holt said the federation had

a good relationship with COOB

and was concerned only about

ohtaining tickets for affiliated

"We have always had the most incredible help from (COOB director general of sports) Manu-

'It's always difficult for me at

man Henry Leconte.

Cherkasov, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

from 3-0 in the third set.

Eric Jelen 7-6 (7-2), 6-1.

straight-set victory.

set to win 7-5, 6-0.

that I could win.

denies

IAAF

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslavia hammered seven goals against soccer minnows the Faroe Islands Thursday to make partial amends for their sbock home defat by Denmark earlier this month in the European Championship qualifying Group

The Yugoslavs, who had won all their four games until the defeat by Denmark, piled on the pressure from the start and were rewarded with a fine win. It took them until the 20th

minute to find the net but then the floodgates opened. Red Star Belgrade's sweeper

Argentine unwisely approached net. Bruguera registered his third Ilija Najdoski scored the first with a forceful header from a corner and midfielder Robert Fromberg reeled off 12 straight Prosinecki added the second four games after falling behind Italy's Cristiano Caratti 5-I in the first minutes later.

Darko Pancev scored in the 50th and 74th minutes and in between his two strikes Dinamo Zagreh's Zvonimir Bohan, probably the best player on the field, and Mallorca fullback Zoran Vulic also put the ball in the net.

Substitute Davor Suker hlasted home a volley four minutes from the end to complete the rout.

Yugoslavia now have 10 points from six matches in group four with Denmark second with five points from four matches.

Finland beats Malta 2-0

Meanwhile, striker Petri Jarvinen and Jari Litmanen comhined night to give Finland a 2-0 victory over Malta in a European Soccer Championsbip Group 6

Midfielder Marko Myyry cros-sed the hall from the right to the head of Nika-Matti Paatelainen who headed down to Petri Jarvinen at six minutes after the interval. Jarvinen sbot into a low corner from a few metres for the first goal.

Kimmo Tarkkio found Jari Litmanen with a precise centre in the 87th minute for a header from close range to make it 2-0. The Netherlands leads the

Group 6 with eight points from five games, one ahead of Portugal. Greece and Finland have four points each, with Malta left at one point from seven games. Finland pressured Malta in the

earlier stages of the first half without getting good scoring opportunities. Finland frequently tried to find the head of Paatelainen - who plays professionally for Dundee United of Scotland - but the striker had two hard head shots on goal with no luck.

Malta's only first half chance came at 24 minotes after sloppy passing by the Finnis. Striker Hubert Suda shot from a good position in the penalty area but the bail went over the har.

In the second half Malta tried to pressure the Finnish build-up a hit more, and the Finns were Jose Canseco. occasionally put on the defensive.

and Sabatini no. 3. And she's groundstrokes, powered by her broad "John Wayne" shoulders "Players now look at me in and hit with a little jump from the another way when they play against me," she said after debaseline. But opponents now have to contend with a Sahatini who' feating Seles in the finals of the rushes to the net. She has de-Italian Open last Sunday, ber

Open and has been sizzling since. She is currently the dominant

have to be considered the early

What surprised Graf at

Her game had always been

built around her heavy topspin

Flushing Meadows and Seles at the Foro Italico was Sabatini's

which begins on May 27.

all-court game.

accurate serve and the ability, to use one of her favourite words, to The then went on to a night of concentrate. disco dancing on the town to And just to keep the others celebrate not only her victory but guessing, she has come up with a well disguised drop shot, which When Sahatini, who hegan playing tennis at the age of 7,

was good for seven points in key situations against Seles. "I'm using everything on the court now, everything is coming together," said Sabatini.

Experts attribute the change in Sabatini to Carlos Kirmayer, the former Brazilian player who took over as ber coach last year. He succeeded Angel Gimenez, a Spaniard, who directed her for

Sabatini, No. 3, is playing like the No. 1

beat Graf in two sets at the U.S. "Of course she's enjoying herself, she's finally allowed to move around the court," said Lea Periplayer on the tour and would coli, a former Italian champion favourite for the French Open,

and now TV tennis commentator. "They had her lifting weights and practicing the same thing day after day. What kind of fun is

As she prepared for the French Open, the next Grand Slam stop where's she been a semifinalist three times, the talk of the tour was who's really no. 17

Seles started off the year hot, winning the Australian Open and two other tournaments. But she's showing signs of cooling down with back-to-back defeats in finveloped a firm volley, a more als. She first lost to Graf in Germany and the following Sunday to Sabatini in Rome.

'I always go by the rankings and they are calculated over 12 months and right now Monica in no. I," said Mary Jo Fernandez during a break at the Lufthansa Cup in Berlin.

Obviously though, Gaby is playing as well or better than the

Other opponents had similar plaudits.

Said Graf, who was dethroned by Seles as the world's no. I in

March: "She has so much confidence.

Gabriela Sabatini

she is using all the shots she has. just goes in and doesn't give up. That's a different attitude for

Sabatini's off-court manner is also more relaxed.

She now seems comfortable speaking English, even if she will never reach the heights of the talkative Seles, born in Yugoslavia but a longtime Florida resi-

As if to make her point, she switched from her tennis clothes to fashionable hlack jeans and black sweater for her victory news conference in Rome.

Holyfield-Tyson battle is possible this year

according to Don King. For once, the master of hyperbole is right.

Nothing concrete has been set for a hout between beavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson, the former champion and top-rated challenger, But both sides are confident such a big-money fight will take place this year.

"It's a little premature," said Sbelly Finkel, an adviser to Holyfield who helps negotiate his fights for main events. "Don and I spoke a little Wednesday at the Cable TV convention and we both said we would like to make the fight happen. He said, 'let's do it' and I said, 'fine, it would have to be the right deal.' We will not just take a deal to make the

On Wednesday, King cancelled the Tyson-Donovan "Razor" Ruddock rematch scheduled for June 28, ostensihly because Rud-

NEW YORK (AP) — It is the dock withdrew to allow Tyson to fight everyone wants to see, pursue a fight with Holyfield. Ruddock's manager, Murad Mohammad, said Thursday the real reason for his fighter's withdrawal has Mohammad's oneyear suspension by the Nevada

> out his promoter," said Mohammad, who also was fined \$25,000 for an altercation with Richie Giachetti, Tyson's trainer, after the controversial ending of the March 18 Tyson-Ruddock fight in Las Vegas.

> King's timing in cancelling the bout is understandable. The International Boxing Federation. one of the three organisations that recognises Holyfield as champion, will hold purse hids in early June for Holyfield's next defence. If no contract is agreed upon hy then, the champion would get 75 per cent of the

row with Barcelona Organisers Boxing Commission. LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Friday denied a report of a rift with organisers of

"Donovan will not fight withthe Barcelona Olympics over the allocation of tickets at next year's The European newspaper, in a front-page story headlined

Danseuse du Soir romps to French 1,000 guineas

GOREN BRIDGE

SIMPLICITY ITSELF

PARIS (R) — Odds-on favourite Danseuse du Soir was a comfortable two lengths winner of the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches the French 1,000 guineas - at Longchamp Sunday.

Ridden by Dominique Boeuf, Danseuse du Soir missed the break but was soon travelling smoothly and, leading a furlong out, easily accounted for Sha Tha, the mount of Steve Cauth-

Sha Tha edged Caerlina, ridden by Lester Piggott. into third

North-South vulnerable. South

NORTH

4 K 6 3

SOUTH

A 5

Opening lead: Queen of 'Curious hand," remarked the itzer. "Even if the finesse

worked, declarer would have been no better off!"

Even though North's spade preference confirmed three-card support.

game was still a touch-and-go proposition. To give partner a clearer picture of the distribution, South

rebid the second suit to show at least

five cards. North's king of hearts now became an enormous asset, so game was reached without further ado.

West led the queen of diamonds and continued with the jack when declarer did not cover in dummy.

North-South bid the hand well.

Pass Pass

WEST

♦ Q 10 4

The bidding:

1 +

P255

+ Q 10 9 7 2

A J 8 7 2 Q J 10 9 4

EAST

95

North

Pass

place by a short head.

Bleu, who Wildenstein confirmed Saturday would now run in the French Derby at Chantilly on June 2 rather than the Epsom. Jockey Eric Legrix was given a four-day suspension for careless

field of nine.

South ruffed, crossed to the king of spades and finessed the jack—the percentage play, if all declarer was

concerned about was the trump suit.

West took the queen and forced declarer with another diamond.

Now declarer could not draw

trumps without first setting up hearts. But when West grabbed the

ace of hearts, another diamond

cooked declarer's goose. After ruffing, declarer had lost trump control

What declarer overlooked was that, as long as trumps broke 3-2, losing a spade trick would not jeop-ardize the contract—the hearts would provide enough discards

from dummy to avoid a club loser.

However, declarer could not afford

to cash the top trumps before fore-ing out the ace of hearts—otherwise

the defender who wins the ace of

hearts might be able to draw the table's last trump.

Correct technique is to lead a heart immediately after ruffing the

diamond at trick two. West must

take the ace or have it ruffed away.

Declarer can ruff the diamond con

linuation and cash the king and ace

of spades. As long as trumps be-have, the contract is home. Declarer

leaves the top trump out and starts

running hearts, discarding clubs from the table. The defenders are

welcome to ruff with the master trump whenever it is convenient.

Declarer simply returns to hand with either a diamond ruff or the

ace of clubs to continue running hearts and eventually the club loser

and ended up down two.

Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB) which, the paper said, was under fire for offering only 6,000 of the 60,000 seats in the Montjuic Stadium to foreign fans. But IAAF General Secretary

Winning owner Daniel Wildenstein and his trainer Elie Lelfouche are enjoying a marvellous run as they are already represented by unbeaten colt Pistolet

riding oo fifth-placed La Carene and the filly was placed last in the

Peanuts

el Fonseca," Holt said.

athletics bodies.



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



U.S. BASEBALL ROUNDUP

By the Associated Press

ROME (AP) - Gahriela Sabati-

ni is finally enjoying tennis.
In what can only be bad news

for the others on the professional tour, the dark-haired Argentine

is no longer the hesitant, reserved

young woman who seemed des-

tined to fail to fulfill her poten-

Instead, as she turned 21

Thursday, she is challenging the

computer that ranks Monica

Seles as no. 1, Steffi Graf no. 2

fifth victory in seven tournaments

started on the tour in ber early

teens she was on everyone's list as

She won her share of tourna-

ments, including two Italian ti-

tles, and moved swiftly up the

rankings. But the big one, a Grand Slam title, cluded her.

Then, last September, the

hreaktbrough came. Sahatini

ber new frame of mind.

an impressive newcomer.

having a good time.

this year.

Mariners 3, Browns 1

Seattle is six games over .500 for the first time since 1985, thanks to consecutive runscoring doubles by Tracy Jones and Pete O'Brien in the ninth inning Thursday night that gave the Mariners a 3-1 victory over Cleveland.

Seattle bas own 10 of its last 11 games, while the Indians have lost eight of nine. Cleveland is 2-J1 at home this season. Harold Reynolds, who has a

12-game hitting streak, singled in the ninth and Jones doubled in go-ahead run with a drive over centre fielder Mike Huff. "There's a lot of room out

there, and I thought it would be caught, especially when I saw him (Huff) react," Jones said. "But I had been 0-for-12 despite hitting some halls good, so deserved that one,"

Cleveland starter Greg Swindell (1-5) allowed three runs; and eight hits in 8 2-3 innings. Swindell has a 2.61 err, but the Indians have scored two runs or fewer in six of his eight starts. Mike Jackson (4-2) pitched 2 2-3 scoreless innings.

Athletics 11, Orioles 5

BALTIMORE (AP) - Harold Baines continued his assault on Baltimore pitching with a threerun homer, two singles and a

Baines homered off Jose Mesa (4-4) in the first after walks to Rickey Henderson and

Joe Klink (2-2) pitched two innings of one-hit ball in relief of Kirk Dressendorfer. Baltimore lost for the eighth time in

Angels 7, Yankees 0

11 games.

NEW YORK (AP) - Wally Joyner homered and drove in four runs, raising his Major League-leading average to .380 and fuelling two acts of frustration by the New York Yankees.

Jim abbott (3-4) scattered seven hits, walked none and struck out six in his fourth career sbutout, his first since last July 13. Joyner, who went 3-for-3

with a walk and a hit by pitch, put the Angels ahead with a three-run double in the third off Eric Plunk (I-1), After his bome run in the fifth, the ball bounced back on the field and right fielder Jesse Barfield threw it completely out of Yankee Stadium.

Brewers 6, Twins 3 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Robin Yount and Dante Bichette homered and Bill Wegman woo his first game in

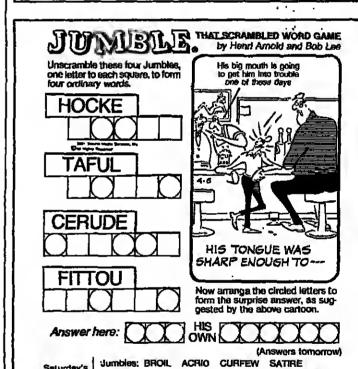
almost a year. Wegman, who missed much of last season and all of April with an elbow injury, pitched victory since shutting out Oakiand 5-0 May 18, 1990. He allowed five hits, struck out two

and walked one. Allan Anderson (I-3) lasted just three innings, giving up six hits and five runs. He has not won since April 10, his first start of the season.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

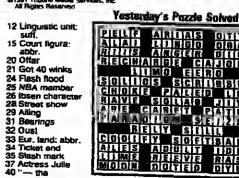


all of our cooking on the radiator. Dinner will be ready in six weeks."



THE Daily Crossword by Mehvin Kernworthy 8 River to the North Sea 13 NC college 14 Fr. composei 15 Maxim 16 Coin drop 17 Claim 18 Clan chief 19 Checks stock 22 Avail 23 Scot. river 24 Concrete unit 27 Jark 30 Feds 34 Bursts of activity 34 Bursts of activity 36 Coleridge's sacred river 38 "— Got a Secret" 39 Choice words 42 Indian 41 Thorn 44 Soak 45 City on the Aar 47 Galena and herister 50 Comic strip screem

Answer: Another name for a riot-A "CROWDBURST"



- the

scream
scream
sc — polloi
s4 Time off
62 Strong point
83 Duck or axcuse

64 Nutty one 65 Chaler 66 "— poor Yorick" 67 "The King

68 Night light 69 Wind indicate

70 Onus

DOWN

3 Glance 4 A.M. word

8 Tops 8 Urge 10 Ananias 11 Skeletal

57 FOR's dog 58 Isr. airline 59 Nanette's negatives







Markets Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Сыттелсу	New York Close Dur15/5/91	Tokyo Closc Date 16/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7545	1.7530
Deutsche Mark	1.6840	1.6910
Swiss Franc	1.4250	1.4305
French Franc	5.7145	5.7410 **
Japanese Yen	137.10	137.30
European Curreny Unit	1.2200	1.2160 **

te: 16:5/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.12	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.95	11.56	11.12	11.12
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.93	9.36	9.12
Swiss Franc	7.87	5.06	8.12	7.87
French Franc	9.12	9.12	9.18	9.31
Japanese Yen	7.84	7.78	7.62	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.57	9.43	9.50	9.68

Date: 16/5/1991 USD/Oz JD/Gm^o Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm 359.75 6.70 Gold Silver , . 87 * 26 Kurat

	Da	Date: 16/5/19	
Сиггенсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dellar	. 677	.679	
Sterling Pound	1.1897	1.1956	
Deutsche Mark	.4012	. 4032	
Swiss Franc	.4743	.4767	
French Franc	.1182	.1188	
Japanese Yen*	. 4933	.4958	
Dutch Guilder	. 3561	. 3579	
Swedish Krona	.1115	.1121	
Italian Lira [†]	.0539	.0542	
Belgian Franc	.01943	.01953	

bedinn Link	.01943	.01955	
Per 100 Défeur Currencies	Date: 16/5/1991		
Саттелеў	Bid	Offer	
Babraini Dinar	1.7310	1.7500	
Lebanese Lira*	.0720	.0740	
Saudi Riyal	.1801	.1820	
Kowaiti Dinar	•	-	
Qatari Riyal	.1825	.1843	
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100	
Omani Riyal	1.7100	.1.7300	
UAE Dirbam	.1827	.1840	
Greek Drachma*	.3550	.3750	
			

Cypriot Pound

明年 三 六 年 日

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index	14/5/1991 Close	15/5/1991 Close
All-Share	113. 48 .	113. 24
Banking Sector	110. 08	109. 52
Insurance Sector	111. 94	112. 06
Industry Sector	117. 67	117. 88
Services Sector	125. 50	123. 39

1.4400

1.4600

Vorwegian crowns

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and seiling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7395/7405	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1500/05	Canadian dollar
	1.7035/40	Deutschemarks
•	1.9185/95	Dutch guilders
	1.4430/35	Swiss francs
	35.03/07	Belgian francs
	5.7725/75	French francs
	1268/1269	Italian lire
	137.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.1160/1210	Swedish crowns
. •	6.6300/50	Norwegian crown
• •	6.5050/5100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	354.50/355.00	U.S. dollars

WARSAW (R) - Poland de- a growth of profitability of exvalued its currency, the zloty, by ports," he added. PAP news agency said Friday. al.

In a move that signalled govexports, the new rate of the zloty against the dollar was fixed at 11,100.

The move was decided at a late-night extraordinary meeting

Exporters had pressed strongly for a devaluation to make their products more competitive abroad but the government had resisted the move.

As recently as last month, Warsaw told the International Moneiary Fund it would keep the exchange rate stable in order to hold inflation in check. But PAP quoted Finance

Minister Leszek Balcerowicz as saying a devaluation was now necessary in view of the dollar's strength and to keep Polish exports profitable. "In recent months we noted a

major growth of value of the dollar against other currencies which complicated the situation of Polish exports," he said.

This required a decision to increase the dollar's rate against the zloty, which should influence

Poland devalues zloty by 14.4 per cent

14.4 per cent after holding its rate Balcerowicz said he believed fixed at 9,500 to the dollar for that the inflationary impulse of more than 16 months, the official the devaluation would be minim-

The devaluation was ernment concern over a slump in announced hours before the domestic production and falling opening of a special conference called by President Lech Walesa to assess the past 16 months of austerity and seek ways of hauling the Polish economy out of

The conference, to be allended by prominent economists and experts, had been expected to exert strong pressure on the governmeot for a devaluation.

Exports recorded spectacular growth last year as Poland notched up a foreign trade surplus of \$3.4 billion with hard currency partners and \$4.4 billion roubles with the Soviet-led Comecon bloc. The current commercial exchange rate, used for foreign trade transactions, is 1.79 roubles to the dollar.

But the combination of a fixed exchange rate and high domestic inflation, 250 per cent last year eroded the competitiveness of ex-

The Gulf war and the collaps of export markets in the Soviet Union and the former East Germany have also dealt powerfu shocks to the economy.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	(ATRA 11-12	May 4
Daily average	JD 2.665,732	JD 2,518,08
Total volume	JD 10,328,658	JD 12,590,42
total shares	6,801,t84	8, t57,58
No. Of contracts	5,770	6,56
s	ectoral trading:	
Industrial	JD 7,790,164	JD 7,380,004
	(75.4%)	(58.6%
Financial	JD 1,311,252	JD 2,919,707
	(12.7%)	(23.2%
Service	(9.3%)	(15.t%
Insurance	(2.6%)	(3.1%
Share price index	133.7	133.6
No. of commaines	76	73
Price movement (rise)	34	25
(Decline)	30	25 35
(stable)	12	9

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Japanese stocks closed higher after five days of losses, pulled up in thin trading by New York's overnight rise of one per cent. The 225-share Nikkei average rose 181.67 points, or 0.71 per cent, to close at 25,701.94 with 260 million shares changing bands. SYDNEY - Australian shares took a breather after vigorous

buying Thursday spurred by a cut in official interest rates. Dealers said the bullish trend should return next week. The All Ordinaries index was down 8.6 points to 1,531.7.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher on a burst of late buying. The Hang Seng index climbed 23.18 points to 3,882.84, outstripping a previous post-1987 crash high close of 3,869.70 on April 3. SINGAPORE - Prices rose over a broad front to close at the day's highs in moderate trading despite some profit-taking in the afternoon. The Straits Times industrial index rose 10.69 points to close at 1,513.75.

BOMBAY - Share prices retreated to end mixed after a bullish start triggered heavy profit-taking.. The Bombay Stock Exchange index ended up 6.19 points to 1,207.69. The national index rose 2.12 to 642.66.

FRANKFURT - Despite lively demand in a small number of second-tier issues, German shares ended mostly unchanged in quiet trade. The DAX index edged 0.79 points higher to 1,598.87. ZURICH - Swiss shares closed little changed with a firmer bias. The all-share SPI index closed 2.7 points higher at 1,079.6. The blue-chip SMI index rose 4.7 to 1,659.5.

PARIS - French share prices ended barely changed, as satisfaction over the reappointment of Pierre Bergavoy as finance minister wore off and the market turned its attention to the fact that interest rates have not been cut. The CAC-40 index ended down a negligible 0.65 points to 1.826.96.

LONDON - Sporadic end-of-the-account buying lifted British shares from their lows, but the market still finished lower on disappointment at Friday's April inflation figures. The FTSE 100 index ended 18.0 points lower at 2,453.9.

NEW YORK - U.S. Blue Chips recovered some losses in late morning amid some futures-related buying as the bond market trimmed its losses. By 1556 GMT the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.87 points to 2,880.14.

Top Swiss banker tells Arabs not to fear new secrecy law

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirales (AP) - A senior Swiss banket has assured Gulf customers that they would enjoy secrecy in Swiss banks, despite recent legal changes there.

'The Swiss banker's legal obligation to preserve the confidentiality of its customers remains unchanged," said Eduard Schmid, senior representative of Credit Suisse.

"The banks are obligated to precisely identify their customers" - not the conent of their accounts - under the new regulations, he said.

"The decision by the supervisory authorities to abolish the so-called Form B accounts has not in any way changed the content and significance of Swiss banking secrecy." Schmid told a news confetence.

He said he had received phone calls from customers enquiring about reports that Swiss banks had abolished their secrecy. Billions of dollars from the oil-rich region are deposited in Swiss and other banks around the world.

But Schmid said any revision to banking secrecy would require either a national referendum or a parliamentary decree.

He said banks are still ptohibited from revealing information about the affairs of customers to any agency or office.

Explosive mixture of poverty, riches marks Iraqi economy

By Walter Putnam The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - In Baghdad's "thieves' market," so named because most goods came from Kuwait, top-line running shoes sell for \$10. Cameras, watches, jewellery are all bargains in the alleys and avenues downtown near the Tigris River - as long as hard currency is the medium of

But the Iraqi dinar has little power to buy food for households inhabited by the unemployed, another product of the Gulf crisis iriggered by Irag's invasion of Kuwait lasi August.

Iraq's post-war economy has become an explosive mix of riches and poverty. Those with dollars can live like kings. Those without may soon be doomed to poverty as inflation and shortages take an increasingly heavy toll.

At the official exchange rate. one dinar is worth \$3.2. On the black market, a dollar can buy five or six dinars, depending on the trader. The discrepancy widens the

gap between the haves and havenots, adding to the undercurrent of uncertainty about how long the government can hold the country together It also adds to the urgency

government leaders face in getung U.N. sanctions lifted so they can trade again, free frozen foreign assets and sell \$1 billion a month worth of oil. It has the world's second-largest supply sitring in the ground.

The U.N. ceasefire agreement



Saadi Mehdi Saleh

allows Iraq to import food and medicine when it can afford to. But British Prime Minister John Major recently vowed to use his country's U.N. veto power to foil any further lifting of sanctions - apparently including oil sales - as long as President Saddam

remains in power. Trade Minister Saadi Mehdi Saleh told foreign reporters recently that Iraq's recovery "total-

ly depeods on oil. "The prospects of trade will be dependent on trading our frozen money," Saleh said of the billions in assets frozen after Iraq's inva-

sion of Kuwait. Without the oil sales, he said, life will be difficult but it won't be impossible to survive.

"We are surviving from our internal production. We are surviving to defend out entity and our dignity," he said. Saleh said the black

would eventually fade. "It depends on when we open trade, when we import more. This will reduce what we call a commercial market. It is not a black market. Actually, it's free trade." be said.

Still, ioflatioo - which a source in the finance ministry saidwas 210 per cent from the end of

people to desperate straits.

"People are turning to crime. My house bas been burglarised twice since the war started. People bave to eat. What are they going to do?" said a businessman,

who asked not to be identified. Eggs and meat doubled in price from seven dinars in January to 11 to 16 dinars in April. That's a hefty bite out of the average income of about 200 dinars a month.

Amer, an engineer and builder, said a tonne of cement once cost 27 to 30 dinars. Recently, he bought it for 250 dinars and that was only because "someone did me a favour," he said. On Sheikh Omar Street, a long

stretch of auto parts and supply stores, business appears to be booming.

"Everything is available, but it is very expensive." one shop operator said

Many people wonder wbether parts for everything from automobiles to machinery will be available at all if sanctions continue for many more weeks.

The economic woes are aggra-

vated by joblessness caused by factories damaged in Gulf war bombing and sanctions shutdowns of other businesses.

Recently, tens of thousands of young men were released from the army in a massive demobilisation by President Saddam and the ruling Revolutionary Command

"Their best working life, be-tween 24 and 30, has been wasted," said Amer, who predicted the added men on the street could lead to lawlessness. This will force people to look

for business in not the straight way, in order to support themthe war in mid-February to the selves," he said.

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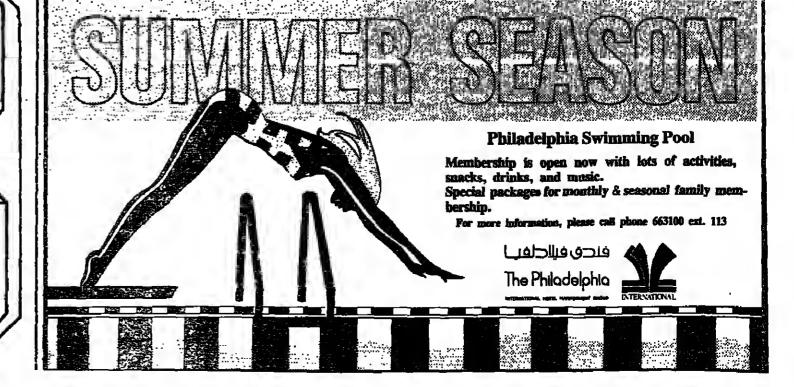
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U.K's opposition Labour seizes 'safe' Conservative Party seat

 Britain's opposition Labour Party seized a once-safe Conservative parliamentary seat in a dramatic hy-election victory Friday, fuelling its hopes of ending more than a decade of Conservative rule at the next general elec-

It humiliated the Conservatives in the poli for Monmouth constituency in Wales by demolishing their previous majority of 9,350

Labour's Hum Edwards, a 38year-old lecturer, beat the Conservative candidate by 2,406.

"Triumph is the only word that fits," juhilant Labour leader Neil Kinnock said. "We have taken a bedrock Tory seat."

The swing from the ruling party of almost 13 per cent, if repeated across Britain in a general election, would return Labour to power and end the period of unbroken Conservative rule begun by Margaret Thatcher in

Her successor as Conservative Prime Minister, John Major, is beset by an economic recession and an inexorable rise in unem-plcyment hut must call a general date, lawyer Rogger Evans, ac-cused Labour of "massive disin-

WASHINGTON (R) - Soviet

use of regular troops to queli

internal unrest is eroding morale

and could endanger the integrity

of the armed forces, and intelli-

gence report to the U.S. Con-

The report by Defence fntelli-

gence Agency (DIA) official Pat-

ric! Duecy to Congress's Joint

Economic Committee Thursday

said draft evasions rose to record

proportions last year with over 20

per cent of inductees failing to

are being eroded by the use of

regular forces to quell interval

unrest, such as the frequent de-

ployment of airborne troops,"

He said recent events in rebel-

The prospect of wider use of

regular forces, if internal security

forces proved insufficient, would

severely test military reliability

opposition group Democratic Rus-

sia overnight, destroying docu-

ments but causing no casualties,

an official for the movement said

"We are treating this as a terrorist act," she said, adding

that no one had yet claimed

Democratie Russia, which

claims about 1.3 million mem-

bers. is an umbrella group which

helped catapult populist Russian

leader Boris Yeltsin to power and

is new backing his candidacy for

the executive presidency of the

The official said the blast sev-

responsibility.

lious republics showed that use of

force against civilians had pola-

Duecy said.

rised Soviet society.

'Military merale and prestige

report for the autumn callun.

Conservative Party chairman Chris Patten put a hrave face on the Monmouth result, saying byelections were opportunities for protest votes and were often "disastrous" for incumbent governments which then went on to win back power nationally.

Monmouth, which fell vacant on the death of a Conservative who had held it for 21 years, had been the party's second most secure seat in Wales. The loss still leaves the ruling party with a big majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, but was its fifth byelection defeat in a row.

The last Conservative byelection win was in February

Labour eampaigned on a pledge to levy higher taxes on the rich and spend more on Britain's free health service.

In a hitter campaign, it portrayed Conservative reforms that allow some hospitals the freedom to finance themselves as a step towards a U.S.-style free market in health care.

The beaten ruling party candi-

and cohesion," the report said.

challenges to central authority

are jeopardising the integrity of

But Duecy said that despite

recent turmoil in the Soviet Un-

ion, "The armed forces remain

the dominant power on the Eura-

His report, which was pre-

sented along with separate intelli-

gence reports on the Soviet and East European economies, de-scribed a Soviet military labour-

ing to maintain and effective de-

fence and a robust strategie de-

completion of a treaty limiting

conventional forces in Europe

(CFE) Soviet forces in the

Atlantic-to-Urals zone would be

positioned to conduct a strong

defence of Soviet territory and

would also be able to mobilise a

strong offensive force in a few

But Duecy added these forces

Aides to Yeltsin were not im-

Yeltsin is widely expected to

mediately available for comment.

win the June 12 election for the

new post of president, which will

give him a powerful base from

which to challenge Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for control of

There are several other candi-

dates for the post, but Yeltsin's

main rival is expected to be for-

mer Prime Minister Nikolai

ary after a heart attack.

Ryzhkov, who resigned in Janu-

Current Prime Minister Valen-

tin Payloy conceded Thursday

that Ryzhkov was unlikely to win

his republic.

It predicted that following

the all-union armed forces.'

"Ethnic strife and separatist

Soviet military still dominant

as morale sags-U.S. report

sian continent.

Britain's economic recession has deepened since November when Major, 48, took after a revolt hy Conservative backbench MPs which led Thatcher to

Monmouth voter Doris Williams, an \$1-year-old widow, said she had switched allegiance to the centrist Liberal Democrats and away from the Conservatives who just cannot seem to sort themselves out on anything."

The Liberal Democrats came third with 11,164 votes in the Monmouth ballot, in which voting was held Thursday and the result declared early Friday. Labour's vote held firm in its

traditional strongholds in the constituency, such as the hleak state housing complex in Weysham village.
"What's good about the Con-

servatives? My husband's been unemployed for 11 years and we have three children," said Dorothy Bowen, 25, of Wevsham.

The British slump is blamed on high interest rates imposed to squeeze inflation out of the eco-

would probably not be sufficient

to defeat a reinforced NATO,

assuming NATO retained its full

entitlement of forces under the

Modernisation of the Soviet

strategic nuclear forces continued

despite budget reductions and re-

search and development were ex-

pected to display even greater emphasis on air defence, the re-

ft said Soviet arms exports to the Third world fell last year hy

about 30 per cent in value com-

pared to 1989. This was because

of less generous repayment terms

and because many customers were experiencing their own eco-

Duecy added that Moscow's

sales efforts might also be hin-

dered by the image of poorly

performing Soviet weapons in the

Gulf war and increasingly stiff

competition. The decline was ex-

pected to continue at least to the

nomic problems.

mid-1990s, he said.

Pigures released Thursday showed unemployment rose last month by 84,100 to 2.18 million, or 7.6 per cent of the workforce, the higgest April increase since World War II.

As Monmonth voted, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont provoked outrage by saying higher unemployment was "a price well worth paying" to beat inflation.

hank) warned Major against premature interest rate cuts. Nationally, Labour led the Conservatives by 40 points to 38

The Bank of England (central

in a "poll of polls" reported by the British Broadcasting Cor-poration's Newsnight television programme Thursday. It was the first time Labour had

led in this sample, taken by four opinion polisters, since Major xeeded Thatcher. There had been speculation

before the Monmouth vote that Major might gamble on a snap general election this June. But Conservative Chairman Patten said on television that he

saw a "jolly strong argument" for waiting until next year. Hun Sen Cambodian

troops to observe

truce

BANGKOK (R) - Prime Minister Hnn Sen has given a personal pledge to a United Nations envoy that government forces will maintain a ceasefire in Cambodia, bnt his guerrilla foes Friday accused Phnom Penh of launching a fresh

Major General Timothy Dibuama, leader of a three-man U.N. truce-monitoring team, told reporters that despite initial reports of violations "things have quietened down a great deal."

He had just returned from Phnom Penh, last leg of a mission that also took him to guerrilla camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The ceasefire, the first in 12 years of warfare, is aimed at fostering a better atmosphere for the next round of talks on a U.N. peace plan that are expected to take place in the Indonesian capital Jakarta next month.

'I can say to you that the authorities (in Phnom Penh) are fully committed to observing the ceasefire up to the Jakarta meet-ing and even far heyond," Dihuama said. A guerrilla official in Bangkok

said about 3,000 government troops backed by tanks and artillery were trying to drive Prince Norodom Sihanouk's forces ont of areas along Ronte Six, the main west-east highway.

The Sihanoukists are allied with the Chinese-hacked Khmer Rouge and the U.S.-backed Khmer People's National Liberation Front against the Phnom Penh government supported by Vietnam

Heavy combat had taken place around the towns of Stueng and Chikreng in central Kompong Thom province since Tuesday, the official said.

"Our presence there is bothersome for them because it cuts the road," he said.

Phnom Penh has accused the guerrillas of mounting attacks and artillery bombardments in

the western provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap and Banteay-Meanchey as well as in coastal Kampot.

Pakistani assembly passes

Sharia law

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's National Assembly, ignoring opposition orotests, has voted to make the fslamic Sharia Code the supreme law for the country's 100 million people.

The Sharia hill was passed by

the 217-seat assembly by voice vote after an acrimonious debate in which the opposition denounced it as fundamentalist and undemocratic.

The People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and liberal Muslims say the law will strengthen fundamentalism, weaken parliament and block progress on issues such as women's rights.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who steered the bill through parliament's lower house, denied women's rights would be infringed. He said he had tried to accommodate the views of opposition deputies in the hill.

Sharif specifically denied opposition charges that he had brought in the bill under pressure from fundamentalist Muslim elerics who helped his Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) to victory in last October's election.

"This is totally wrong. This will not happen under my government that anaybody can get anything done by putting pressure on he said.

Sharif's eight-party IDA, which has hig majorities in both houses of parliament, says it is fulfilling a pledge to enforce Sharia it made in October's election campaign.

The Sharia bill must be approved also by the Senate (upper house) to become law. Sharif offered an olive branch to the PDA. "I am ready to forget our past confrontation in the interest of the country," he

after the vote. No immediate comment was accuses Sharif's party of taking | hundreds died. power hy election-rigging.

said in a speech to the assembly

Bhutto, her husband Asif Ali Zardari and several of her former cabinet colleagues are facing trial on disputed charges of corruption during her 20-month government that was dismissed by President

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, last August. The assembly softened an original draft of the Sharia bill and ruled that the present parliamentary democratic system and the existing system of government would not be challenged in any court after the bill became law.

the PDA. Bhutto was not in the chamber when Sharif spoke. Some of Sharif's fundamentalist allies say the bil is too weak

But the move has not appeased

because it sidesteps their demand to control an Islamic judiciary which could overrule parliament.

"Yes, we want to go backwards to the steps for the Prophet (Mohammad) because his era (14 centuries ago) was the best," Sharif's former Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Sattar

Police defuse bombs in central Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police defused two bombs early Friday, one hidden in a car outside the main police station and the other ontside a bank in central Johannesburg.

Police spokesman Engene Opperman said police believed the two mines were linked to a hlast that tore through a restaurant in Johannesburg's Hillhrow nightclub district Thursday evening, injuring eight men, three of them seriously.

"Two limpet mines, one

John Vorster Square Police Headquarters, the other on a pavement outside Volskas Bank, were rendered harmless by police this morning," Opperman told

Opperman said one of the ines was of Soviet origin. Right-wing militants claimed responsibility for half a dozen

bomh attacks on anti-apartheid targets around the city a year ago. The attacks caused injuries and damage hut no deaths. .

Government change closely tied to Mitterrand succession

PARIS (R) — New Prime Minister Edith Cresson's appointment of a cabinet hardly changed from the last appears to confirm that France's change of premiers is closely tied to the succession of President Francois Mitterrand.

Cresson announced her new cabinet late Thursday but kept virtually all holders of major portfolios at their posts, indicating no significant policy changes afoot.

The newspaper Le Monde, which has close connections to top French leader, said hours earlier that the appointment of Cresson, a long-time Mitterrand protege, was part of a plan to ensure the president's succession

went according to his wishes. Le Monde said Mitterrand named Cresson to thwart the presidential ambitions of her preoecessor Michel Rocard, the president's long-time rival for the leadership of the Socialist Party.

Mitterrand, who will be nearly 79 when his term ends in 1995, is widely believed to want to turn over the presidency to Laurent Fabius, another personal protege who served as his prime minister from 1984 toi 1986.

Le Monde said that forcing Rocard's resignation would enhance Fabius' chances of taking over the Socialist Party machine and ensure its backing for his

that of Rocard and other hope-

Fabius, 44, current president of the National Assembly, is already locked in conflict within the party machine with other presidential hopefuls like Education Minister Lionel Jospin.

Mitterrand said on television after appointing the 57-year-old Cresson Wednesday that he named her because she was best qualified to lead France into the igle-market Europe of 1993.

But an opinion poll published Friday in the news magazine Le Point showed 53 per cent of respondents were not convinced by the explanation.

Some 35 per cent said they thought Cresson's appointment was really aimed at ensuring Socialist victory in general elections in 1993. Only small numbers believed other motives were in-

The victory of a Socialist in the 1995 presidential poll will largely depend on the party winning the 1993 general election and Cresson, France's first woman prime minister, is widely expected to be an ideal vote getter.

Many opposition parliamentarians have already called Cresson's appointment a "media gimmick" aimed at garnering the support of women, who outnumcandidacy as president, blocking ber men among voters.

Students, police clash on eve of Korean anniversary

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) - April 26 death of 20-year-old Hundreds of students clashed with riot police in South Korea's southwestern city of Fwangin Friday on the eve of the emotional anniversary of a failed 1980 uprising.

The students hurled firebombs and bits of paving stones in hitand-run assaults on the massed olive-drab lines of riot police assembled in the provincial capital for the annual commemoration available from the PDA which of the popular uprising in which

More than 8,000 riot police have been posted around Kwangju and anthorities have warned they will use force to put down illegal rallies, which include virtually all the events planned by the dissidents.

"The law enforcement authorities will cooperate to the greatest extent possible to maintain law and order and provide conveniences for legal assemblies," Kwangjn Mayor Lee Hyo-Gae said in a statement.

"On the other hand," he warned, "we have no other choice but to take legal action to protect the public against illegal or violent rallies which threaten

the public peace.' The May 1g anniversary of the 'Kwangiu massacre' draws thousands of students and dissidents to this city of 900,000, a traditional centre of dissent in Korea and the power base of veteran opposition leader Kim

Dae-Jung. The anniversary has a special intensity this year because of the

student Kang Kyung-Dae after being beaten by police during a protest in Seoul. Kang's death revitalised the

flagging South Korean dissident movement and set off weeks of the worst anti-government protests since 1987, when mass street demonstrations forced the military-backed government to concede democratic reforms. The protests, which significant-

ly have not drawn in the politicalhowever thrown the government of President Roh Tae-Woo into Meanwhile about 200 South

Korean students attacked a U.S. army housing compound in Seoul Friday with a firebomh. Military officials said there were no injuries or major damage. Police used teargas to disperse

the students from nearby Dongkuk University, who had demonstrated in front of the Hannam Village Housing Complex for about 90 minutes, a U.S. Forces Korea spokesman said.

He said the firebomb struck the library building in the complex but was quickly put out by the base fire brigade.

One student climbed over a chain-link fence and entered the compound but was captured by American military police and turned over to South Korean authorities.

About 43,000 U.S. service personnel are stationed in South Lost 'Bermuda Triangle' squadron may have been found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anthropologists researching

erely damaged one of the group's the poll, the first direct election document rooms late Thursday of a top Soviet leader since the night. But thousands of signa-October Revolution of 1917. Angola truce violations

Plast destroys room at

Soviet opposition offices

MOSCOW (R) - An explosion tures collected in support of Yelt-

ripped through a room at the sin's candidacy were stored else-

headquarters of the powerful where and had not been affected.

LUANDA (R) — Angolan authorities blamed UNITA rebels for three attacks, just hours after a oe racto ceasefure in the 16-year Angolan war came into force. But UNITA leader Jouas

Savimbi denied that his fighters had violated the truce. The government remained confident that the war would end as agreed at the end of the month. This will not disrupt the peace

accords. This time we really are certain of peace," Deputy Defence Minister General Antonio Des Santos Franca told Reuters. Major Americo Valente, a spokesman for the Angolan Armed Forces General Staff, told

journalists at a briefing in Luan-"No ceasefire has been signed yet, so the period between ... May 16 and May 31 when the peace accords are due to be signed should be viewed as a period of truce under the general

undertakings of the agreement reached in Bicesse (Portugal)." He said there had been three truce violations Thursday by rebels of UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independ-

ence of Angola. They had occupied Monte Belo in Benguela province, attacked government troops positions 32 kilometres outside Bailundo in central Huambo province and

'will not destroy peace'

Bnt Savimbi, denying his men had violated the truce, told a news conference in Brussels: "There have not been bombardments ... everybody is complying with instructions."

For the first time since April

"Under the terms of the undertakings, there should not be troop movements within a radius of 10 kilometres of the other side's positions," said Valente.

was attacked by government soldiers was "simply not true."

in Luena this week reported heavy UNITA artillery fire. Officials said the process of installing a lasting peace in Ango-

bombarded another government position near Luena in eastern Moxico province.

Luena itself was quiet Thursday, although Valente said the general staff was concerned about UNITA troop movements on its outskirts and in the area of Caculama in the northern province of

He added that the UNITA claim that Monte Belo had already been in their hands and

Foreign correspondents who accompanied government forces

la had only just begun. "The next two weeks will serve as an introduction to the idea that the war is over," Deputy Information Minister Joao Miranda

Bear hug steals the royal Washington

snow LONDON (AP) - Britons are watching the formal ceremonies of Queen Elizabeth II's U.S. tour - but the star of the show by Thursday was the Washington great-grandmother who gave the British monarch a big bug.

"The queen was stunned when she was grabbed in a ribcrunching bear hug by a 16-stone (224-pound) great-grandmother," said London's 3million circulation Daily Mirror under the photograph of the queen smiling a shade fixedly in Alice Frazier's arms.

"At first she couldn't hide her shock but a smile soon broke out on her face," the paper said. Newspapers mixed stories and photos of the incident with stories about the prospects of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf war, for getting a knighthood. Buckingham Palace refused Thursday to confirm or deny Schwarzkopf's

Drospects. Mrs. Frazier, 67, embraced the 5-foot-4-inch (1.6-metre) queen, 65, during a tour of a low-cost housing project Wednesday.

paper, Today, told the story under the headline, "Well helio there, Queenie." The coverage reflected the con-trast with the British practice confining physical contact with

royalty to limp handshakes. "I thought the pictures were very touching," Hugo Vickers, a writer on royalty, said in an interview with Brita - 's Sky Television Network. "f think that will be one of the pictures which probably lasts historically in the queen's reign.'

The hug followed a flood of stories in Britain on the first day of the visit when President George Bush forgot to activate a platform to raise the queen above the micropbones he'd used for his welcome speech.

Two questions are occupying

those Americans interested in the

royal visit," said the Indepen-

dent, a highbrow London news-

paper in its story from Washing-

MIAMI (AP) — One of the Bermuda Triangle's deepest mysteries may be solved - high-tech explorers have located what "Dodge City hug," said the Daily Telegraph. Another newsappear to be the wrecks of five navy planes that vanished off Florida in 1945, one of the ex-

plorers said Thursday. The five TBM Avengers, four of which appear to be in excellent condition, were spotted in 750 feet (225 metres) of water, about 10 miles (15 kilometres) off Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said Robert Cervoni, managing director of Scientific Search Project.

"It was incredible - we were filled with excitement," said Cervoni. "We rushed out to the library and tried to read everything we could about the Bermu-

da Triangle." The exploration vessel Deep See, armed with sonar instruments and underwater cameras, made the discovery in early May while searching for sunken Spanish galleons. The company re-leased the information Thursday after filing their salvage claim in Miami Federal Court.

U.S. District Jndge Kenneth

Ryskamp granted the initial

granted a change to contest it, said Barbara Locke, an attoroey for the company. Navy spokesmen in Washington, D.C., had no immediate

claim, although the navy has been

reaction. The team's first priority is to send submersible robots down to the site to determine if the planes are indeed the so-called "lost squadron," which disappeared on Dec. 5, 1945, during a training flight from the naval airbase in

Fon Lauderdale No trace of the planes or the pilots was ever found after they apparently became disoriented over the Atlantic. The disappearance helped huild the myth of the Bermuda Triangle, an area bounded by Bermuda, Miami and Puerto Rico where ships and planes seemed to vanish myster-

The tean;'s archaeologist, Ted Darcy, of the Kailua, Hawaiihased aircraft recovery company Wreckfinders, said that while ini tial indications were positive, he cannot yet confirm the planes' identities with certainty. The navy lost more than 100 TBM Avengers off Florida, he noted. One link to the lost squadron is a number spotted on the sunken lead plane — 28 — the same as the number on Flight 19's lead plane, said Darcy. A second link is the letters FT visible on some of the planes, the navy's designation for Fort Lauderdale-based aircraft. Another positive indication is

the number of aircraft. No other ditching of five avengers was ever reported by the navy, said Darcy. Four of the planes are in relatively good condition," said Cervoni. "All the glass is intact,

there's not much damage. But the flight leader's was broken cleanly in two. That raises the possibility that the lead plane, which had a shorter range than the others, ran out of fuel, and the others then ditched behind it. No human remains

Cervuni said. Flight 19 ran into trouble after the first leg of its training flight when the leader's compass failed and hazy weather disoriented the pilots. According to their final radio transmissions, they spotted

were visible in the sunken planes,

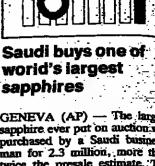
islands they thought were the Florida Keys, and believed they were flying over the Gulf of Mexico, Darcy said.

From the position of the planes, Darcy said, they may have finally realised they were over the Atlantic. A student leader had taken over the flight and may have had them within 10 miles (15 kilometres) of their home base when they were forced to ditch.

Asked whether he believes in the Bermuda Triangle myth, Darcy was vehement.

'Hell, no," he said. "It's one of the most heavily navigated bodies of water in the world. Yon've got some tricky currents, the Gulf stream - 1 don't think there's anything weird about it."

Cervoni said that while the deep see and the submersibles, which are being operated by Graham Hawkes of Deep Ocean Engineering, are sufficient to establish the planes' identities, actual salvage would require a barge and cranes, along with special chemicals and equipment to



COLUMN

GENEVA (AP) - The largest sapphire ever put on auction was purchased by a Saudi business man for 2.3 million, more than twice the presale estimate. The enshion-shaped sapphire weighing a massive 337.6 carasand set in a diamond and platinum mount in 1910 — was fea-tured at a Christie's jeweilery sale in a Geneva luxury hotel. The purchaser, Sheikh Ahmad Hassan Fitahi, owner of one of the leading Jeddah department stores, was quoted by the anctioneers as saying he wanted to sell this "magnificent jewel in my country." The previous owner was not identified. Christie's spokeswoman Pauline Schaefer said that only four larger sapphire are known to exist, all-in museums. They include the 536-carats "Star of India" in the American Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and the 548-carat-gem known as "Peter The Great's Nose," in the

Giri survives 18-story plunge

Green Vault of Dresden.

MELBOURNE (AP) — A 6 year-old girl fell 18 stories from her family's apertment but suffered only a broken thigh and bruises after landing in a tree and bushes, police said. Police said the girl, whom they would not identify, had been standing on a chair looking out the living-room window when she leaned on the pane and it broke, causing her to tumble out. She was recovering well at Royal Children's Hospital, hospital spokesman Don Kin-

Author charged with trying to blackmail Jane Seymour

BATH, England (AP) - An

American author charged with

trying to blackmail actress Jane

Seymour was freed on £23,000

(\$40,000) bail. George Mendoza, 57, is charged with demanding £57,500 (\$100,000) from the actress. Police say Mendoza contacted Miss Seymour's sister, Annie Gould, at the actress's home in Bath, southwest England, and threatened to publish certain photographs, tape recordings and other material if he was not paid. Mendoza raised a fist triumphantly as Bath magistrates granted him bail, saying: "I'm innocent." He vowed to "tell my side of the story" during the trial, adding, "it will be a real shocker." Mendoza's bail conditions were approved during the hearing hefore Judge Colin Willis in ehambers at Bristol Crown Court. Bath magistrates formally granted bail and adjourned the hearing until June 14. Mendoza, who spent just over a month in custody, has surrendered his passport and agreed to stay at a London hotel, reporting to police three times a week.

1,100-year-old tomb of Mayan ruler opened

tombs of the ancient Maya civilisation of Central America have found the bejewelled skeleton of what could be one of the last Maya rulers. Vanderbilt University officials said Tuesday by telephone from Nashville, Tennessee, they had talked with the anthropologists at the tomb near the present-day city of Pelen, Guatemala, who reporterd the startling discovery. Arthur Demarest, professor of anthropology, led a group removing stones inside a Mayan pyramid that found the skeleton decked out in a headpiece of mother-of-pearl, shells and jade, according to Tracey Ferrell, project administrator at Vanderhilt. The skeleton was in excellent condition, and workers are now uncovering it, she said. Elaborate pottery and obsidian knife blades lay nearby in the burial chamber. "It's definitely a ruler of some kind," said Ferreli. "Obsidian was an elite material in the Mayan world because it had to be brought from far away." Obsidian is a volcanic glass. Knives made from the material were used in royal bloodletting ceremonies among the royalty, she said. Ferrell said the skeleton may be of that a king known to researchers as ruler 2. Demarest, who has been excavating in the area for two years, said in a report last month that the tomb was located near a monument, called Stela 2, that is dedicated to ruler 2. The Stela refers to his hurial in the eighth century.

